Preface

The development of biopesticides based on microbes is an area of growing interest world- wide. Harnessing the power of naturally occurring antagonists of pests and diseases has always been an attractive proposal. We are surrounded by many instances of natural enemies keeping potential pests in check, so the idea of using natural enemies to reduce the pest issues, due in part to monoculture and intensive farming, has appeal. However, as has been repeatedly realised, a lot of research is needed to make this a reality for any specific pest.

The Methods in Molecular Biology (MiMB) series has been useful to many researchers, as few articles describe methods in sufficient detail to be able to reproduce without many learning errors. This can make learning a new techniques a frustrating and even costly business. Books which focus on the details of specific methods are much sought-after by researchers. This volume in the MiMB series is possibly pushing the envelope of what constituents molecular methods as many of the techniques are not all molecular based, but our aim is to provide methods of particular interest to those developing biopesticides based on live organisms. The area of biopesticide research and development is complex, ranging from selecting the right microbe to applying to the pest population; it requires cross-discipline science and industry cooperation.

A positive for biopesticide researchers is that there is a push to develop more sustainable pest control in most countries, with microbial-based pesticides an obvious choice. One aim of this book is to assist, in a small way, the wave of new developments of biopesticides, in the hope we can make the world a safer and healthier place.

We would like to thank all the contributors, for putting together their high quality and easy-to-follow protocols and share their knowledge with the scientific community. We also want to acknowledge John M. Walker and co-workers at Springer for the opportunity to broaden and gain substantial experience by assembling this collection of articles.

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