

# Preface

Lepidopteran pest infestation of economically important plants is a menace to farmers all over the world. These pests are in general polyphagous and voracious feeders. The larval stages cause huge economic losses to the agricultural yield. Although a number of chemical pesticides have been discovered and are in use, the increasing pest resistance to these chemicals is an alarming problem in addition to the environmental pollution caused by these chemical pesticides. The use of biocontrol agents for the control of lepidopteran pests is increasing over time and could be looked upon as an upcoming solution to resolve the environmental issues.

The entomopathogenic viruses, bacteria, fungi, nematodes and their metabolites show active insecticidal properties against these pests. This volume, comprising of 16 chapters, is focused on the characterization, mechanism of action and application of some of these entomopathogenic viruses, bacteria, fungi, nematodes and the metabolites of these microbes against the devastating lepidopteran pest species around the world. The larva of *Helicoverpa armigera*, one of the economically important lepidopteran crop pests, infected by NucleoPolyhedro Virus (NPV) is depicted in Fig. 2.4 (see Chap. 2 of this volume).

Having a focus on different aspects of entomopathogenic soil microorganisms and their metabolites for their use in biocontrol of lepidopteran pests, this volume will attract the attention of life science researchers in general and microbiologists, agricultural researchers, entomologists and applied chemists in specific. It will also serve to motivate the researchers focused on integrated pest management studies.

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