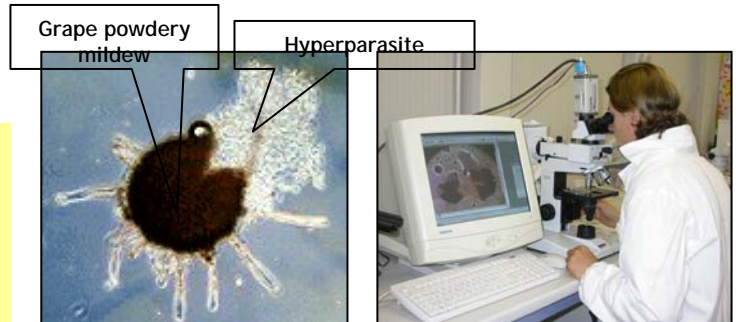


BIOCONTROL AGENTS

Biological control in agriculture is based on the use of predators, parasitoids, pathogens, competitors or antagonists to control pests on crops
Biocontrol agents are natural enemies of dangerous parasites and pathogens. They limit and reduce pests, keeping damages below an economical threshold and respecting the environment

ADVANTAGES IN USING BIO CONTROL:

- Sustainable production of healthy and high quality products
- No pesticide residues on food
- Low environmental impact
- Minimise pollution of water, soil and air
- Help in maintaining high biological diversity in the ecosystem
- Help in maintaining long-term soil fertility
- Low risk for farmers health
- No problems of pesticide residues in exports

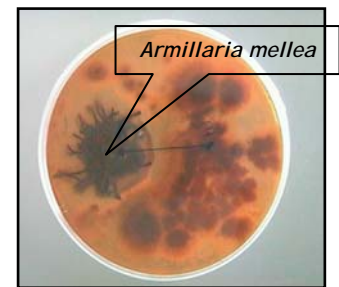


Biocontrol of a grape pathogen

Research and development



Biocontrol of Armillaria (pathogen) with Beauveria (BCA)



LOW IMPACT STRATEGIES

Kairomones
Pheromones traps
Mating disruption
Biofungicides
Predators of mites and insects
Entomopathogen nematodes
Insect viruses



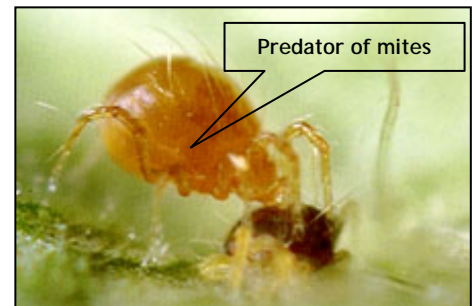
Laboratory trials



Spores of the fungal pathogen

MECHANISMS OF ACTION OF BIOCONTROL AGENTS

Competition for space and nutrients with the pest
Direct and indirect toxic effects on the pest
Disease resistance induction in plants
Mycoparasitism and Predation



Predator of mites

Current research on crops: grapevine, apple, strawberry, small fruits and horticultural crops