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Book Review

Formulation of Microbial Biopesticides—Beneficial Micro-Organisms, Nematodes and Seed Treatments
Edited by H.D. Burges, Kluwer Academic Publishers, Dordrecht, The Netherlands, 1998, 412 pp. $192. ISBN 0412625202.

When I was contemplating what to say about this book, I was drawn to a headline in the 18 August 2001 issue of the 'New Scientist', which ran as follows "STOP THE ROT, organic wine growers get a fungus to catch a fungus". The short article then described how some New Zealand researchers had found an un-named fungus that was effective in reducing the effects of the mould *Botrytis cinerea* on the grape harvest. Well, this is exactly the sort of problem that this very practical horticultural and agricultural book is concerned with.

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The book is divided into five parts: principles of formulation; organisms with a peroral mode of action (that attack insect pests); organisms with a contact mode of action; organisms with a power of search; and the future developments. There are 15 authors, drawn mainly from the USA and the UK, who write with considerable authority. There are many practical details and lists of microbes that can be applied to particular plant diseases.

There is not much here for the phytochemist. It would be clearly of interest to microbiologists, but is primarily intended for the applied scientist in pest control.

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