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ENTOMOPATHOGENIC NEMATODES AS MODEL ORGANISM IN RESEARCH OF HOST-SYMBIONT AND HOST-PARASITE INTERACTIONS

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Summary

This work presents a short description of host-symbiont relation in entomopathogenic nematodes (EPN) from genus *Steinernema* and *Heterorhabditis* and their symbiotic bacteria from genus *Xenorhabdus* and *Photorhabdus*, respectively. EPN are highly virulent to insects, so that they are used as a biocontrol agent. EPN are also used as model organisms in studies on host-parasite and host – symbiont interactions. Bacteria are the only symbiont of EPN. Nematodes and their symbionts can be cultivated in laboratory conditions on artificial media. This feature is very useful for examining relations between a host and its symbiont.