LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Promising Lecanicillium lecanii strains for the biological control of Rhipicephalus (Boophilus) microplus Canestrini

Cepas de Lecanicillium lecanii promisorias para el control biológico de Rhipicephalus (Boophilus) microplus Canestrini

_Lecanicillium lecanii_ (Zimmerman) Zare & Gams [= _Verticillium lecanii_ (Zimmerman) Viégas] fungus is reported as a parasite of arthropods, plant pathogens and others in tropical and subtropical areas. Six Cuban native strains of _L. lecanii_ belonging to the collection of the Plant Mycology Laboratory at National Center for Animal and Plant Health (CENSA) were evaluated against the engorged females _Rhipicephalus (Boophilus) microplus_ by the adult immersion test. The parasitic action of three entomopathogenic fungi strains on engorged females was evidenced with a significant decrease in the oviposition rate. Their parasitism on fresh eggs of this parasite was also determined decreasing their hatching rate. Koch’s postulates confirmed their identity.

These results are encouraging and this research line is being carrying out at the Veterinary Parasitology and Plant Mycology Laboratories at CENSA, in order to obtain an effective product against _Rhipicephalus (Boophilus) microplus_.

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