



Challenges of Developing Natural Product-producing Biopesticides

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Innovative Bio-based Products for Pest Management in Agriculture and Water

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Marrone Bio Innovations, Inc. Overview

Company Highlights

- Founded April 2006 in Davis, CA
- 3 commercial products, 1 add'l approved, 2 add'l submitted for EPA approval
- Library of **19,000** proprietary microorganisms
- 110+ employees (19 Ph.D.; 67 in R&D)
- Strategic investors: DSM, Syngenta, Mitsui
- Building fermentation facility in Bangor, MI
- Doubling revenues 2012 to 2013
- Listed on NASDAQ as MBII August 2, 2013

Commercial Products Today



Marquee Partners / Distributors



Robust Pipeline

- Opportune[™] bioherbicide EPA approved
- Venerate[™] bioinsecticide and MBI-011 bioherbicide submitted for EPA approval
- Nematicides, additional herbicides, and plant health products in development
- More than 200 patents issued and pending





Add 2-5 years for other countries and additional \$2-5 million USD



Case Study: REGALIA[®] Biofungicide

- Extract of giant knotweed, foliar or soil applied
- Ethanol extraction of several compounds containing plant material provides formulation challenges (separation is not a viable path)
- Knotweed supply chain development was difficult and took years to work out
- Regulatory agencies ex-USA required additional compound characterization & toxicology
- Analytical methods required for detection and quantification of several compounds









Case Study - GRANDEVO[®] Bioinsecticide

- Chromobacterium subtsugae (USDA discovery)
- Filed patents on insecticidal compounds produced by the bacteria – different chemical classes each have different mode of action
- NO contact activity (will not kill insects if applied to the cuticle)
- Repellency, feeding cessation, effects on reproduction – huge challenge for assessing efficacy and for development into a product

Photos courtesy of: Lygus Entomart; Beet armyworm Clemson Univ. USDA Cooperative Extension Slide Series Bugwood.org; Western flower thrip Frank Peairs, CO St. Univ. Bugwood.org; citrus leaf miner Center for Invasive Species Research, UC Riverside; : cabbage Looper RJ Reynolds Tobacco Company, Bugwood.org; twospotted spider mite Clemson EDU



Mean Number of Aphid Progeny on Treated Leaf Discs











Insects are highly agitated after exposure to GRANDEVO®

USDA-ARS - Tracy Leskey, et al

Horizontal Distance Moved after 0.5 to 4.5 hrs







Lethality – Tarsal Contact USDA-ARS - Tracy Leskey, et al



Case Study - VENERATE™ Bioinsecticide

- New patent pending bacterial species of Burkholderia rinojensis sp. nov.,
 - No relationship to pathogenic Burkholderia species
 - Discovered in MBI's discovery screen; isolated from soil collected by MBI employee
- Several patent pending active compounds, different chemical classes, some novel, produced by the bacteria
- Active on contact and by ingestion; broad spectrum—sucking and chewing insects, mites, and flies
- Nontoxic and nonpathogenic to all nontarget organisms; slight activity on predatory mites in the lab
- Submission as a microbial to the US EPA







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ContactoEfficaewiAgainstatepicoptera, Larvaeth molting problems

Larva with molting problems (left) compared to control larva.



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Appears to affect molting and melanization of the cuticle; also will kill by ingestion



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- Contact assay: using fractions obtained from the fractionation of crude extract
- Place 1 uL of sample on thorax of 3rd instar larvae



Mortality, CL contact assay with fractions





Case Study - VENERATE[™] vs. Grandevo[®] Bioinsecticide

- Venerate[™] contact activity makes is easier to evaluate than Grandevo[®] because most chemicals are contact active.
- Grandevo[®] is more challenging to evaluate because of its complex, noncontact mode of action
- Venerate[™] is not 'better' than Grandevo[®], just different modes of action.
 Field efficacy and spectrum are quite similar.
- Plethora of compounds produced by both microbes provides large challenges in fermentation and formulation development – which compounds are most important to optimize?
- What compounds do you use as 'marker' compounds for QC in manufacturing?
- Tox testing requires that TGAI ("technical grade active ingredient") captures levels of compounds expected in the final product



Case Study - ZEQUANOX®

Rapidly Spreading Invasive Species

Economic & Ecological Destruction





Marrone's Solution (molluscicide)







Case Study - ZEQUANOX[®] for Invasive Mussels

- Derived from soil microbe (*Pseudomonas fluorescens*) discovered by NYSM
 - Composed of 100% dead cells
- Controls mussels in all life stages
 - Perceived as food source—destroys the mussel's digestive system after 6 hour treatment
- Highly selective toward zebra/quagga mussels
- Effective in a broad range of water conditions and temperatures
- Noncorrosive and nonvolatile





Case Study - ZEQUANOX[®] for Invasive Mussels

- *Pseudomonas fluorescens* strain has particular, atypical nutritional requirements
- Active mussel-killing compounds are proteins in the cells that rapidly biodegrade after 1 hour of large scale mixing
- Lab jar assays did not mimic in-pipe results
- Using live mussel jar assay for fermentation and formulation development is very slow and difficult

Lessons Learned

- Many very good biopesticides are not selected for development because they do not work in familiar ways like chemical pesticides
- Developing bioassays that address the mode of action is critical
- Consultants and cooperators must use appropriate protocols and take evaluations beyond dead insect counts (plant damage, yields, quality)
- Training of end users in proper timing and use set expectations, e.g., Grandevo is not a rescue treatment and should not be used alone when there are high insect populations – partner with oil, Oroboost, or other adjuvant

QUESTIONS?

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