

# 1<sup>st</sup> BIODESERT Workshop

## Insect-Microbe Symbiosis

Organized by

Laboratory of Microorganisms & Active Biomolecules



Faculty of Science of Tunis  
University of Tunis El Manar

December 13-15<sup>th</sup>, 2011

Hotel du PARC  
Tunis, Tunisie

### Program

- Conferences and practical laboratory work

### Conference workshop objectives

- Type of microbial symbionts and nature of the symbiotic relationship.
- Overview of the symbiont diversity in agriculture insect pests and economically useful insects.
- Molecular markers for identification and exploration biodiversity amongst insect symbionts.
- Emerging symbiont-based strategies for the control of insects and insect-transmitted diseases.

### Practical laboratory work objectives

- Bacterial diversity analyses and molecular identification (ITS followed by 16S sequencing).
- Total DNA extraction and analysis of microbial diversity by DGGE.
- Application of RT-PCR for quantification of bacterial symbionts (*Wolbachia*).
- In situ observation of symbionts using different coloration methods (DAPI, FISH,...).

In collaboration with

the Higher Institute for  
Biotechnology of Sidi  
Thabet (ISBST)

[www.isbst.rnu.tn/events.html](http://www.isbst.rnu.tn/events.html)



**Free Registration**

The number of participants is limited to 30

Contact: Laboratory of Microorganisms & Active Biomolecules, FST.

☎/☎: 00216 70 860 553. e-mail: [biodesertworkshop2011@gmail.com](mailto:biodesertworkshop2011@gmail.com)

With the support of



**BIODESERT**

"Biotechnology from Desert microbial extremophiles for supporting agriculture research potential in Tunisia and Southern Europe"

EU Project N. 245746 – FP7 Supporting Action – CSA-SA

*Laboratory Microorganisms & Active Biomolecules, Faculty of Sciences of Tunis  
University of Tunis El Manar*

**Program of the 1<sup>st</sup> BIODESERT workshop****INSECT-MICROBE SYMBIOSIS****Tunis - December 13 – 15<sup>th</sup> 2011**

*Hotel du Parc, Tunis  
&  
Higher Institute for Biotechnology of Sidi Thabet, University of Manouba*

**Monday December 12<sup>th</sup>. Arrival day**

Transport will be assured for participants from airport to the hotels

**Tuesday December 13<sup>th</sup>, Workshop day 1: at the hotel****Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> / Morning**

08h30-09h00: Registration

09h00-09h30: **Ameur Cherif** and **Abdellatif Boudabous**: Welcoming the participants and presentation of the Workshop objectives

**Daniele Daffonchio**: Presentation of the Biodesert Project and dissemination activities

**Session 1: Overview of the symbiont diversity in agriculture insect pests and economically useful insects**

09h30-10h15. Conference 1: **Kostas Bourtzis**, University of Ioannina, Greece

"Insect-*Wolbachia* Symbiosis: from fundamental research to pest and disease control"

***10h30-11h00: Coffee break***

11h00-11h30: Conference 2: **Daniele Daffonchio**, University of Milan, Italy

"Acetic acid bacteria, an emerging group of symbionts of sugar-feeding arthropods"

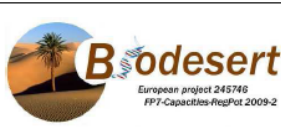
11h40-12h10: Conference 3: **Elena Gonella**, University of Turin, Italy

"Microbial symbioses in *Auchenorrhyncha* vectors of phytoplasmas to grapevine"

12h20-12h50: Conference 4: **Mohamed Aziz Darghouth**, ENMV, University of Manouba, Tunisia

"Potential implication of microbial symbionts in the control of tick-borne diseases: case of piroplasmids in livestock"

***13h00-14h00: Lunch***

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### Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> / Afternoon

#### Session 2: Type of microbial symbionts and nature of the symbiotic relationship

- 14h30-15h15. Conference 5: **Abdelaziz Heddi**, INRA/INSA University Claude Bernard, Lyon I, France  
"Antimicrobial Peptides Selectively Target Insect Endosymbionts and Restrain their Survival to the Bacteriocyte Cells"
- 15h30-16h00. Conference 6: **Noura Raddadi**, University of Bologna, Italy  
"*Candidatus Liberibacter europaeus*, a novel microorganism associated with *Cacopsylla* spp.: a symbiont, a potential pathogen or an endophyte?"
- 16h10-16h40. Conference 7: **Imène Ouzari**, IRESA/University of Carthage, Tunisia  
"Microbial symbionts in the desert ant *Cataglyphis*"

**16h50-17h10: Coffee break**

#### Session 3: Molecular markers for identifying and exploring biodiversity amongst insect symbionts

- 17h10-17h40. Conference 8: **George Tsiamis**, University of Ioannina, Greece  
"DNA Microarrays and SymbioKosmos"
- 17h50-18h20. Conference 9: **Jacques Mahillon**, Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium  
"Insight into the ecology of *Bacillus thuringiensis*"
- 18h30-19h00. Conference 10: **Elena Crotti**, University of Milan, Italy  
"Unravelling the ecology of acetic acid bacterial symbionts within their insect hosts"

**20h30. dinner**

### Wednesday December 14<sup>th</sup>, Workshop day 2

#### Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> / Morning at the hotel:

#### Session 4: Emerging symbiont-based strategies for the control of insects and insect-transmitted diseases.

- 08h30-09h30: Conference 11: **Ravi Durvasula**, University of New Mexico School of Medicine, USA  
"Paratransgenic Approaches to Arthropod-borne Diseases"
- Conference 12: **Adam Forshaw**, University of New Mexico School of Medicine, USA  
"Paratransgenic Approaches to Arthropod-borne Diseases, Act 2"
- 09h45-10h15: Conference 13: **Ben Halima Kamel Monia**, IRESA/University of Sousse, Tunisia  
"Biological control in agricultural: situation and perspectives"

**10h30-11h00: Coffee break**

**BIODESERT**

"Biotechnology from Desert microbial extremophiles for supporting agriculture research potential in Tunisia and Southern Europe"

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11h00-11h40: Conference 14: **Tom Miller**, University of California, Riverside, USA  
"BIOLOCUST: Biotechnology for control of desert locust"

11h50-12h20: Conference 15: **Matteo Montagna**, University of Milan, Italy  
"Symbionts, within symbionts within parasites: the case of *Mitochondria mitochondrii*"

12h30-13h00: Conference 16: **Ameur Cherif**, University of Manouba, Tunisia  
"Symbiotic control of honeybee pathogens"

13h10-13h30: General Discussion – Closing of the conference session

**13h30-14h30: Lunch**

**14h30-15h00: Transport of the participants to the ISBST (Institut Supérieur de Biotechnologie de Sidi Thabet).**

**Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> / Afternoon session at the ISBST**

**15h-18h00. Afternoon session: Practical in the laboratory of ISBST.**

**15h-16h00:**

Group 1: Assessment of insect microbial community diversity (Bee) using cultivation independent approach: DGGE (Amel Guesmi and Hanene Cherif, University of Tunis El Manar).

Group 2: Assessment of insect microbial community diversity (Bee) using cultivation dependent approach (Chadlia Hamdi and Jihène Essanaa, University of Tunis El Manar).

**16h00-16h30: Coffee Break**

**16h30-18h00:**

Group 1: Assessment of insect microbial community diversity (Bee) using cultivation dependent approach (Chadlia Hamdi and Jihène Essanaa, University of Tunis El Manar)

Group 2: Assessment of insect microbial community diversity (Bee) using cultivation independent approach: DGGE (Amel Guesmi and Hanene Cherif, University of Tunis El Manar)

**18h00-18h30. Discussion**

**18h30-19h00: Transport of the participants to their hotels**

**20h00. Dinner**

**BIODESERT**

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**Thursday December 15<sup>th</sup>, Workshop day 3 at the ISBST**

**08h30-09h00: Transport of the participants to the ISBST.** Practical in the laboratory of ISBST

**9h00-10h45:**

**Group 1:** Application of Quantitative Real-Time PCR. (Imène Fhoula, Khaoula Abdi, University of Tunis El Manar)

**Group 2:** Insect tissue morphological staining (DAPI) with fluorescence in situ hybridization (FISH) (Ant, Scorpion, Aquatic beetle). (Khaled Elmnasri, Hanene Cherif, University of Tunis El Manar)

**10h45-11h15: Coffee Break**

**11h15-13h00:**

**Group 1:** Insect tissue morphological staining (DAPI) with fluorescence in situ hybridization (FISH) (Ant, Scorpion, Aquatic beetle). (Khaled Elmnasri, Hanene Cherif, University of Tunis El Manar)

**Group 2:** Application of Quantitative Real-Time PCR. (Imène Fhoula, Khaoula Abdi, University of Tunis El Manar)

**13h00- 14h00: Lunch**

**14h00- 18h00:** Afternoon session: Practical in the laboratory of ISBST

**14h00- 16h00**

**Conference:** Real Time PCR: Technology and Applications. Walid Essid, Chef de produits. Roche Molecular Diagnostics, Roche Applied Science. Tunisia.

**16h00- 16h30: Coffee Break**

**16h30-18h00:**

**Phylogenetic Analysis:** Analysis of Results (DGGE, PCR ITS and sequencing of 16S). (Amel Guesmi, Chadlia Hamdi and Jihène Essanaa, Faculty of Sciences of Tunis)

**18h00- 18h30.** General Discussion and closing the practical

**18h30- 19h00: Transport of the participants to their hotels**

**20h00. Dinner**



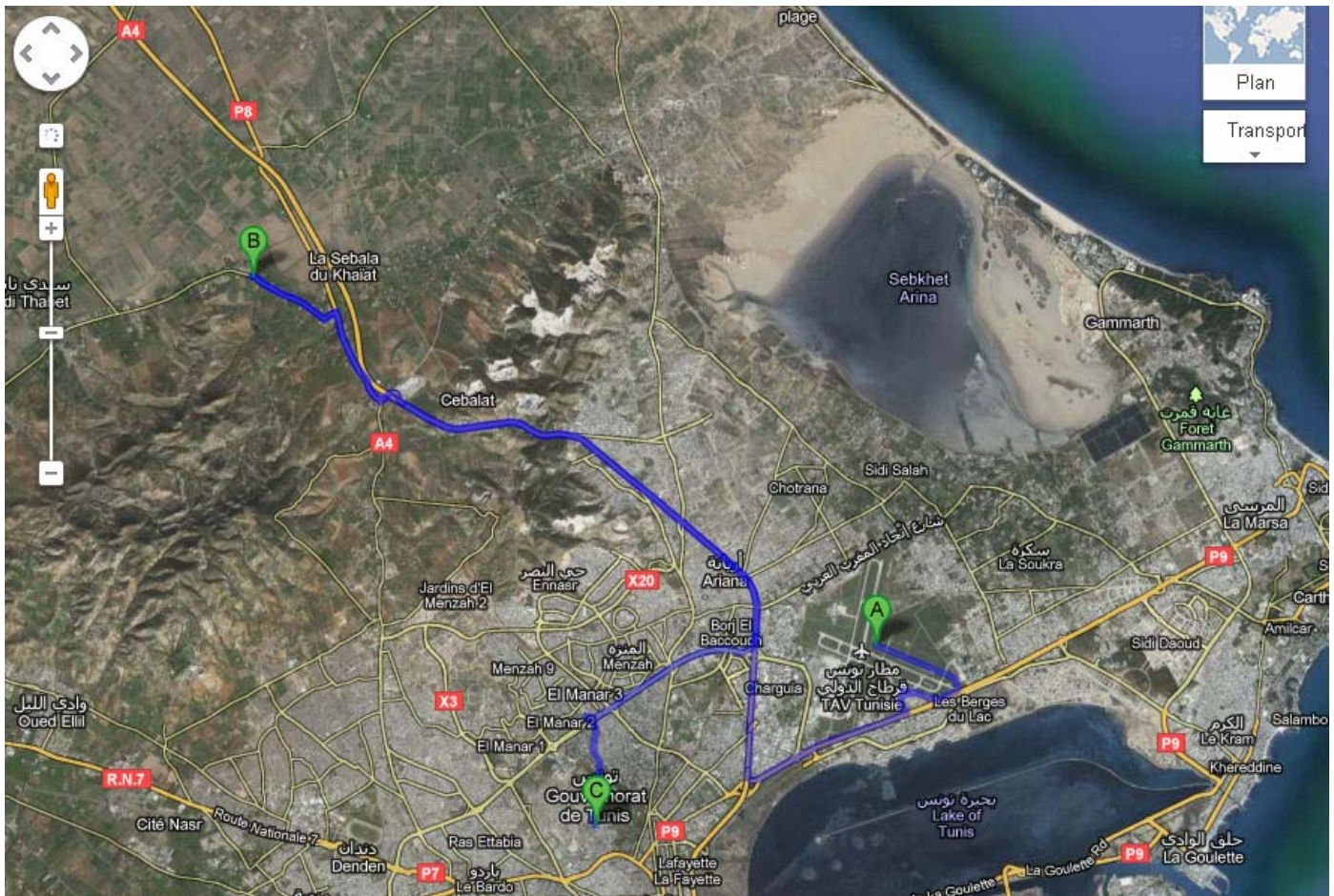
## BIODESERT

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### Location and venue of the workshop

- A- Airport of Tunis Carthage
- B- Higher Institute for Biotechnology of Sidi Thabet (Practical sessions)
- C- Hotel le PARC (Conference sessions)



You can magnify or precise the exact location by clicking on this Google Earth link:

<http://maps.google.fr/maps?saddr=A%C3%A9roport+Tunis-Carthage,+Tunisie&daddr=36.916386,+10.085490+to:Hotel+du+Parc,+Tunis,+Tunisie&hl=fr&ie=UTF8&ll=36.855999,10.198402&spn=0.194768,0.308647&sl=36.87359,10.16803&sspn=0.194723,0.308647&geocode=FadNMgIdAA2cACGbgbUA0YgkKA%3BFaJMMwIdcuSZAA%3BFTjQMQId8B6bACFwhoK64vUFpQ&vpsrc=6&mra=ls&t=h&z=12>