

Host Range of the Microsporidian Pathogen *Vairimorpha invictae* at Three Field Sites in Argentina

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The microsporidian pathogen *Vairimorpha invictae* is being evaluated for possible release in the United States as a potential classical or self-sustaining biological control agent for imported fire ants. We examined the host range of this pathogen in northern Argentina by collecting ants and other arthropods from three sites where *Solenopsis invicta* fire ant colonies had high levels of infection (28–83%). We examined 235 non-ant arthropods from 10 orders, 43 families, and more than 80 species with a PCR screening procedure; none were infected with *V. invictae*. We also examined 509 non-*Solenopsis* ants from 12 genera, 19 species, and 61 baits using the same PCR screening procedure; again, none were infected with *V. invictae*. These data indicate that, in its native South American range, *V. invictae* is specific to *Solenopsis* fire ants.

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