

Opening Remarks

Thank you, Dave (Grimble). Let me begin by saying that it is particularly fitting that this group meet at this point in time. First, it a fair guess that in the 1984 field season more forest acreage will be treated with microbial insecticides than in any previous year. Second, the research effort devoted to all phases of microbial insecticide formulation and application appear to have arrived at a unique stage when recent R&D is finding ready application -- I am thinking of B.t. -- current R&D, particularly on viruses, fungi, and parasites, is well along in development, and the possibility of genetically tailored biological insecticides is far more than a gleam in a microbiologist's eye. Momentum -- and that's what this group has -- incites achievement.

I also note with satisfaction that our private sector colleagues have a prominent place on the program. Their contributions and viewpoints, both formal and informal, in exchanges with other scientists provide a sense of "wholeness" to the meeting which reflects the informal network binding this group together.

In the same vein I also want to welcome our Canadian colleagues -- many of whom played key roles in the CANUSA program, and those scientists from distant states. Indeed, the geographic diversity of the group and its scientific composition -- engineers, physicists, chemists, and an array of biological expertise -- demonstrate how clearly effective interdisciplinary R&D can be when mutual respect and common goals guide the enterprise.

Another interesting feature of this Symposium is that it brings together experience and expertise on two major forest defoliators, budworm and gypsy moth. The Northeastern Station, while continuing its budworm effort after the CANUSA Program ends in the U. S., will be increasing its level of gypsy moth R&D. Consequently the Microbial Symposium will be of special interest to some of our scientists, and I am happy to say the Station will be publishing and distributing the Proceedings.

In brief I am looking forward to the deliberations of this meeting, so let's get on with it. Thank you.