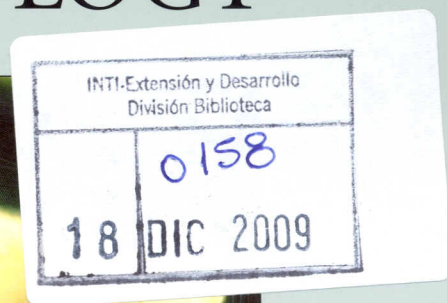


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Cloning of a Novel Pyrethroid-Hydrolyzing Carboxylesterase Gene from *Sphingobium* sp. Strain JZ-1 and Characterization of the Gene Product

Bao-zhan Wang†, Peng Guo†, Bao-jian Hang, Lian Li, Jian He, and Shun-peng Li 7301

Cover photograph (Copyright © 2009, American Society for Microbiology. All Rights Reserved.): Fruiting bodies of the basidiomycete *Clitopilus passeckerianus*, which produces a natural antibiotic called pleuromutilin. Recently, a derivative of pleuromutilin called retapamulin was approved for use in humans as a treatment for impetigo and infected wounds. However, despite its increasing importance, until now no molecular tools have been available to achieve a full understanding of this antibiotic. (See related article on page 7196.)