CONTENTS

Abbreviations used .............................................................................................................i-ii

Table legends ......................................................................................................................iii-v

Figure legends .....................................................................................................................vi-viii

Chapter I. General Introduction ......................................................................................1

1. Introduction ................................................................................................................1

2. Objectives ..................................................................................................................10

Chapter II. Review of Literature .....................................................................................11

1. Entomopathogenic fungi as biocontrol agents ...........................................................11

2. Biocontrol of cockroach ................................................................................................14

3. Insecticidal activity of destruxin ................................................................................17

4. Compatibility of entomopathogenic fungi with pesticides, fungicides
   and botanicals .............................................................................................................21
   a. Pesticides ...........................................................................................................23
   b. Fungicides ........................................................................................................26
   b. Botanicals .........................................................................................................27
   c. Pesticides used against Cockroaches ...........................................................28

5. Insect host – pathogen interaction and mechanism of insect kill ..............................29

Chapter III. Materials and Methods .................................................................................38

1. Fungal culture and maintenance .................................................................................38

2. Experimental insects ...................................................................................................39

3. Extraction of destruxin from *M. anisopliae* ............................................................39

4. Chemicals ...................................................................................................................40
5. Insecticidal activity of conidia of *M. anisopliae* isolates against *P. americana*

   a. Mode of treatment .................................................................41

6. Evaluation of compatibility with commercial pesticides, fungicides, botanicals and pesticides used against cockroaches .................................................................43

   a. Germination assay .................................................................43

   b. Vegetative growth and Sporulation assays .................................43

7. Statistical evaluation ........................................................................................................45

8. Mode of action of fungal conidia of *M. anisopliae* isolates against *P. Americana* ....46

1. Enzymatic antioxidant assays .........................................................................................47

   a. Preparation of enzyme extracts ......................................................48

      i. Catalase .....................................................................................48

      ii. Peroxidase .................................................................................49

      iii. Ascorbate peroxidase ...............................................................49

      iv. Superoxide dismutase ...............................................................49

2. Non-enzymatic antioxidant assays ...............................................................................50

   a. Measurement of total, protein-bound and nonprotein thiol content ..........50

      i. Total thiols (T-SH) .................................................................51

      ii. Non-protein thiols (NP-SH) and protein bound thiols (PB-SH) ..........51

   b. Cellular glutathione content .........................................................................51

      i. Estimation of reduced glutathione (GSH).......................................51

      ii. Estimation of oxidized glutathione (GSSG) ..................................52

   c. Analysis of free radicals .................................................................................52

      i. *Measurement of Hydrogen peroxide (H₂O₂) levels* .......................52

   d. Study of Lipid peroxidation .........................................................................52
9. Study of mode of infection by Scanning Electron Microscopy ........................................53

10. Study of tissue damage by Transmission Electron Microscopy ..............................53

**Chapter IV. Results** ........................................................................................................54

1. Insecticidal activity of *M. anisopliae* conidia against the house hold pest, *P. Americana* .........................................................................................................................54
   a. Bioassays with conidia ...............................................................................................54
   b. Horizontal transmission of infection among cockroaches .....................................63

2. Compatibility studies .....................................................................................................63
   a. Studies on compatibility of entomopathogenic fungal isolates with pesticides ..........63
   b. Studies on compatibility of entomopathogenic fungal isolates with fungicides .......70
   c. Studies on compatibility of entomopathogenic fungal isolates with botanicals ...77
   d. Studies on compatibility of entomopathogenic fungal isolates with pesticides used against cockroaches .................................................................83

3. Mode of action of conidia of *M. anisopliae* on *P. Americana* .............................92
   a. Antioxidant enzymatic activities of *P. americana* and oxidative stress induced by the conidia of *M. anisopliae* .................................................................92
      i. Assay of Catalase, Peroxidase, Ascorbate peroxidase and Superoxide dismutase 92
   b. Lipid peroxidation ....................................................................................................98
   c. Total, Protein bound and Non-protein bound thiol content ....................................100
   d. Cellular glutathione content ..................................................................................102
   e. Levels of Hydrogen peroxide (H$_2$O$_2$) ...............................................................104

4. Electron Microscopic studies .........................................................................................105
   a. Study of mode of infection by Scanning Electron Microscopy ............................105
   b. Study of tissue damage by Transmission Electron Microscopy ..........................108
5. Mode of action of crude destruxin on *P. Americana* .......................................................... 114
   a. Bioassays with destruxin .................................................................................. 114
   b. Antioxidant enzymatic activities of *P. americana* and oxidative stress
      induced by crude destruxin ............................................................................... 114
      i. Assay of Catalase, Peroxidase, Ascorbate peroxidase and
         Superoxide dismutase ................................................................................... 114
   c. Lipid peroxidation ......................................................................................... 118
   d. Total, Protein-bound and Non-protein bound thiol content ............................ 120
   e. Levels of Hydrogen peroxide (H$_2$O$_2$) ....................................................... 121

Chapter V. Discussion ...................................................................................................... 123
   a. Insecticidal activity of entomopathogenic fungus on *P. Americana* .......... 123
   b. Compatibility of entomopathogenic fungal conidia with
      commercial pesticides, commercial fungicides, commercial botanicals and pesticides
      used against cockroaches .............................................................................. 128
   c. Mode of action of entomopathogenic fungi on *P. americana* ..................... 130

Conclusions .................................................................................................................. 139

References .................................................................................................................. 142

Synopsis