

GROWTH FACTORS OF *Steinernema carpocapsae* RELEASED BY A  
*Xenorhabdus* BACTERIA.

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The entomopathogenic nematode *Steinernema carpocapsae* is an important biological agent in IPM. A bacterial pre-bioconversion of the medium is required for the *in vitro* production of this nematode. In the present work, the optimal conditions to medium bioconversion which increase axenic nematode growth were accessed.

Nematode production arising from a filtrate of a bacteria incubated medium for 48 hrs at 25°C is significantly higher than at 6 or 24 hrs. The presence of viable bacteria in bioconverted medium increases nematode growth.