Title:	Testing for anti-nematode activity of the fungi from the mounds of Odontotermes obesus
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Abstract:	Termites, often perceived as nuisance pests, play pivotal roles in ecosystem dynamics, impacting nutrient cycling, soil structure, and plant growth. Their complex social organization, characterized by a sophisticated caste system, facilitates efficient resource utilization and adaptability to diverse environments. However, termite colonies face threats from various pathogenic microorganisms, including nematodes, which can infiltrate the whole colony. Entomopathogenic nematodes (EPNs) pose risks on the termites, exploiting the crowded conditions within colonies. Despite this, termites exhibit resilience against nematode infestations. This can be attributed in part to the presence of symbiotic associations the termites have with a plethora of micro-organisms. One such type of micro-organisms is speculated to be Nematophagous fungi which employs various trapping mechanisms to capture and consume nematodes, thereby contributing to colony health and stability. This study aims to investigate the potential anti-nematode activity of fungal strains present in termite mounds. Through the analysis of soil samples collected from termite mounds, the nematode distribution could be seen to drastically decreased as we move towards the termite mound. Subsequently, nematodes were cultured for further examination.
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