Fungi Bioluminescence: Mechanistic Study and Application in Environmental Toxicology

Cassius Stevani

Instituto de Química, Departamento de Química Fundamental

Although fungi bioluminescence has been reported since Aristotle, the pathways involved in light emission as well as the identity of the emitter and its biological function(s) remain unsolved. Likewise firefly bioluminescence, which study allowed the development of several analytical tools, such sensors for evaluation of contaminated food and luc reporter gene as a probe in Molecular Biology, the elucidation of the light emission mechanism in fungi could generate new theoretical and applied knowledge. Currently, our group develop a bioluminescent biosensor for the possible evaluation of environmental pollutants toxicology in contaminated soil/sediments and atmospheric samples.