

Fusarium Cyclodepsipeptide Mycotoxins

Subjects: Pharmacology & Pharmacy

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Most of the fungi from the *Fusarium* genus are pathogenic to cereals, vegetables, and fruits, and the products of their secondary metabolism mycotoxins may accumulate in foods and feeds. Non-ribosomal cyclodepsipeptides are one of the main mycotoxin groups and include beauvericins (BEAs), enniatins (ENNs), and beauvenniatins (BEEAs).

Keywords: phytopathogens ; Fusarium ; mycotoxin contamination

1. Introduction

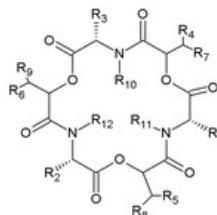
Fungi belonging to the *Fusarium* genus produce a wide range of secondary metabolites, including the non-ribosomal depsipeptide mycotoxins, such as beauvericins (BEAs), beauvenniatins (BEEAs), enniatins (ENNs), and their analogues [1][2][3][4]. BEAs, BEEAs, and ENNs were included in the cyclodepsipeptide group of compounds, often found in high concentrations in grains, crops, vegetables, fruits, and even eggs, as a result of fungal infection [5][6][7][8][9]. They are involved in plant-pathogen interaction and may lead to many plants' diseases, which can be very dangerous for animals' health, including humans [10][11][12][13][14]. For example, ENNs produced by *Fusarium* species may act synergistically as a phytotoxin complex, which causes wilt and necrosis of plant tissue [15]. Moreover, ENN B affects mouse embryo development by inducing the dosage-related apoptosis or necrosis in mouse blastocysts [16]. On the other hand, BEA demonstrated neurotoxic properties in mice. In higher concentrations (7.5 and 10 µM), it affected the skeletal muscle fibers [17].

Additionally, BEA has a harmful influence on the reproductive system. The progesterone synthesis in cumulus cells was decreased when exposed to BEA [18]. Moreover, BEA inhibited estradiol and progesterone synthesis in bovine granulosa cells [19]. Also, ENN B reduced progesterone, testosterone, and cortisol secretion in human adrenocortical carcinoma cells and modulated the expression of genes involved in steroidogenesis [20]. The cytotoxicity of cyclodepsipeptides (BEAs, BEEAs, ENNs) is related to their ionophoric properties [21][22][23]. Even at low concentrations, they possess the capacity of perforation of the cell membrane, which is associated with the induction of apoptotic cell death and disruption of extracellular regulated protein kinase (ERK) activity [24][25][26][27]. However, this ability does not exclude the capability of promoting the transport of cations such as K⁺, Na⁺, Mg²⁺, and Ca²⁺ through the membranes, which leads to the disturbance of cellular ionic homeostasis [28]. This cytotoxic effect on various human cancer cell lines also suggests the potential use of cyclodepsipeptides as anti-cancer drugs [22][29][30][31][32]. All cyclodepsipeptides (BEAs, BEEAs, ENNs) have been shown as compounds exhibiting numerous biological activities, such as antimicrobial, insecticidal, and antibiotic activity, towards *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* and *Plasmodium falciparum* (human malaria parasite) because of their potential to inhibit the cholesterol acyltransferase of microbial origin [30][33]. Furthermore, BEA can be used as a co-drug for fungal infections in humans because the combination of BEA and ketoconazole (an anti-fungal drug) enhances its antifungal activities [29][33][34][35]. BEA has been reported as a growth inhibitor of human-pathogenic bacteria, such as *Escherichia coli*, *Enterococcus faecium*, *Salmonella enterica*, *Shigella dysenteriae*, *Listeria monocytogenes*, *Yersinia enterocolitica*, *Clostridium perfringens*, and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*. The chemical properties of cyclodepsipeptides may allow for the emergence of new pharmaceutical products with anti-inflammatory and antibiotic properties [33][36][37]. The studies have shown the divergent impact of cyclodepsipeptides on human health; still, further studies are needed to indicate the potential effects of BEAs, BEEAs, and ENNs on human health. Moreover, it is imperative to study new compounds of the cyclodepsipeptide group, along with their analogues, to better understand the relationships between their structure, diversity, and toxicity.

2. Chemistry

BEAs, ENNs, BEEAs, and allobauvericins (ALLOBEAs) represent a family of regular cyclodepsipeptides, consisting of three N-methyl amino acids and three hydroxy acid groups [4][38][39][40][41]. Characterization of all cyclodepsipeptides produced by *Fusarium* fungi, their elemental composition, molecular weights (used for their identification), and chemical

structures are presented in [Table 1](#) and [Figure 1](#). Most of the BEAs contain three groups of *N*-methyl-phenylalanine, except for BEAs J, K, and L, which contain one, two, or three groups of *N*-methyl-tyrosine, respectively [2][26]. However, BEA D and E have demethylated amino acids-phenylalanine and leucine in their structures [42]. Moreover, BEAs differ in hydroxy acids possession. BEA and BEA D, E, J, K, and L possess D-2-hydroxyisovaleric acid (D-Hiv) ([Figure 2a](#)) and BEA A/F, B, and C possess D-2-hydroxy-3-methylpentanoic acid (D-Hmp) ([Figure 2b](#)), whereas BEA G₁ and G₂ possess D-2-hydroxybutyric acid (D-Hbu) ([Figure 2c](#)) [2][3][31][33][42]. ALLOBEAs A, B, and C are diastereomeric to BEAs A, B, and C, respectively. These compounds differ in the D-Hmp groups' configuration [33]. Some of the BEAs, such as BEA B, C, J, K, L, G₁, G₂, and all ALLOBEAs, were known from previous publications as precursor-directed compounds, detected inside in vitro cultures of fungi belonging to *Beauveria*, *Acremonium*, and *Paecilomyces* genera [26][31][33]. It was proven that phytopathogenic fungi from the *Fusarium* genus naturally produce all BEAs and ALLOBEAs [2][3][42]. The structures of BEAs have been described in many articles, where they were determined by a variety of chemical methods, including liquid chromatography-mass spectrometry (LC-MS) and nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR).



Compound	R ₁	R ₂	R ₃	R ₄	R ₅	R ₆	R ₇	R ₈	R ₉	R ₁₀	R ₁₁	R ₁₂
Beauvericin	CH ₂ CH ₃	CH ₂ CH ₂ b	CH ₂ CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₂	CH ₂	CH ₂	CH ₂
Beauvericin A/F	CH ₂ CH ₃	CH ₂ CH ₂ b	CH ₂ CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₂ CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₂	CH ₂	CH ₂	CH ₂
Beauvericin B	CH ₂ CH ₃	CH ₂ CH ₂ b	CH ₂ CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₂ CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₂	CH ₂	CH ₂	CH ₂
Beauvericin C	CH ₂ CH ₃	CH ₂ CH ₂ b	CH ₂ CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₂ CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₂	CH ₂	CH ₂	CH ₂
Beauvericin D	CH ₂ CH ₃	CH ₂ CH ₂ b	CH ₂ CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₂ CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₂	CH ₂	CH ₂	H
Beauvericin E	CH ₂ CH ₃	CH ₂ CH ₂ b	iCH ₂ CH ₂ CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₂ CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₂	CH ₂	CH ₂	CH ₂
Beauvericin J	CH ₂ CH ₃	CH ₂ CH ₂ b	CH ₂ CH ₂ OH	CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₂ CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₃	H	CH ₂	CH ₂	CH ₂
Beauvericin G ₁	CH ₂ CH ₃	CH ₂ CH ₂ b	CH ₂ CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₂ CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₃	H	CH ₂	CH ₂	CH ₂
Beauvericin G ₂	CH ₂ CH ₃	CH ₂ CH ₂ b	CH ₂ CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₂ CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₃	H	CH ₂	CH ₂	CH ₂
Beauvericin G	CH ₂ CH ₃	CH ₂ CH ₂ b	CH ₂ CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₂ CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₃	H	CH ₂	CH ₂	CH ₂
Beauvericin K	CH ₂ CH ₃	CH ₂ CH ₂ OH	CH ₂ CH ₂ OH	CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₂ CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₂	CH ₂	CH ₂	CH ₂
Beauvericin L	CH ₂ CH ₂ OH	CH ₂ CH ₂ OH	CH ₂ CH ₂ OH	CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₂ CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₂	CH ₂	CH ₂	CH ₂
Beauvenniatin A	CH ₂ CH ₃	CH(CH ₃) ₂	CH ₂ CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₂ CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₂	CH ₂	CH ₂	CH ₂
Beauvenniatin B	CH ₂ CH ₃	CH(CH ₃) ₂	CH(CH ₃) ₂	CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₂ CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₂	CH ₂	CH ₂	CH ₂
Beauvenniatin G ₁	CH ₂ CH ₃	CH(CH ₃) ₂	CH(CH ₃) ₂	CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₂ CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₂	CH ₂	CH ₂	CH ₂
Beauvenniatin G ₂	CH ₂ CH ₃	CH(CH ₃) ₂	CH(CH ₃) ₂	CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₂ CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₂	CH ₂	CH ₂	CH ₂
Beauvenniatin G	CH ₂ CH ₃	CH(CH ₃) ₂	CH(CH ₃) ₂	CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₂ CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₂	CH ₂	CH ₂	CH ₂
Beauvenniatin L	CH ₂ CH ₃	iCH ₂ CH ₂ CH ₃	CH ₂ CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₂ CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₂	CH ₂	CH ₂	CH ₂
Enniatin A	secCH ₂ CH ₂ CH ₃	secCH ₂ CH ₂ CH ₃	secCH ₂ CH ₂ CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₂ CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₂	CH ₂	CH ₂	CH ₂
Enniatin A _s	CH ₂ CH ₃	secCH ₂ CH ₂ CH ₃	secCH ₂ CH ₂ CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₂ CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₃	H	CH ₂	CH ₂	CH ₂
Enniatin A _d	secCH ₂ CH ₂ CH ₃	secCH ₂ CH ₂ CH ₃	secCH ₂ CH ₂ CH ₃	iCH ₂ CH ₂ CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₂ CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₂	CH ₂	CH ₂	CH ₂
Enniatin B	CH ₂ CH ₃	CH(CH ₃) ₂	CH(CH ₃) ₂	CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₂ CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₂	CH ₂	CH ₂	CH ₂
Enniatin B _s	CH ₂ CH ₃	CH(CH ₃) ₂	CH(CH ₃) ₂	CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₂ CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₂	CH ₂	CH ₂	CH ₂
Enniatin B _d	CH ₂ CH ₃	CH(CH ₃) ₂	CH(CH ₃) ₂	CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₂ CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₃	H	CH ₂	CH ₂	CH ₂
Enniatin B _{0/D}	CH ₂ CH ₃	CH(CH ₃) ₂	CH(CH ₃) ₂	CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₂ CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₂	CH ₂	CH ₂	CH ₂
Enniatin E	CH ₂ CH ₃	iCH ₂ CH ₂ CH ₃	CH ₂ CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₂ CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₂	CH ₂	CH ₂	CH ₂
Enniatin F	iCH ₂ CH ₂ CH ₃	secCH ₂ CH ₂ CH ₃	secCH ₂ CH ₂ CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₂ CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₂	CH ₂	CH ₂	CH ₂
Enniatin H	CH ₂ CH ₃	CH(CH ₃) ₂	CH(CH ₃) ₂	CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₂ CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₂	CH ₂	CH ₂	CH ₂
Enniatin I	CH ₂ CH ₃	CH(CH ₃) ₂	CH(CH ₃) ₂	CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₂ CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₂	CH ₂	CH ₂	CH ₂
Enniatin J _s	CH ₂ CH ₃	CH(CH ₃) ₂	CH(CH ₃) ₂	CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₂ CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₂	CH ₂	CH ₂	CH ₂
Enniatin J _d	CH ₂ CH ₃	CH(CH ₃) ₂	CH(CH ₃) ₂	CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₂ CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₃	H	CH ₂	CH ₂	CH ₂
Enniatin K _s	CH ₂ CH ₃	CH(CH ₃) ₂	CH(CH ₃) ₂	CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₂ CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₂	CH ₂	CH ₂	CH ₂
Enniatin MK 1688	CH ₂ CH ₃	CH(CH ₃) ₂	CH(CH ₃) ₂	CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₂ CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₂	CH ₂	CH ₂	CH ₂
Enniatin P _s	CH ₂ CH ₃	CH(CH ₃) ₂	CH ₂ CH ₂ OH	CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₂ CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₂	CH ₂	CH ₂	CH ₂
Enniatin P _d	CH ₂ CH ₃	iCH ₂ CH ₂ CH ₃	CH ₂ CH ₂ OH	CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₂ CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₂	CH ₂	CH ₂	CH ₂

Figure 1. Chemical structures of beauvericin, enniatin, allobauvericin, and beauvenniatin analogues produced by *Fusarium* species.

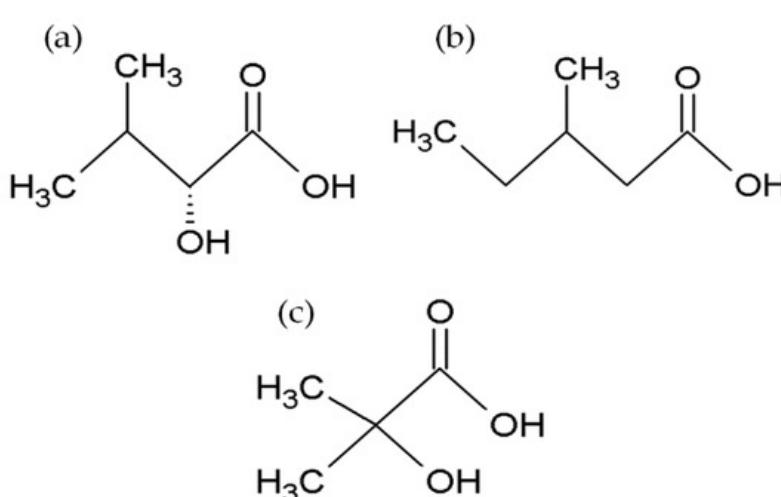


Figure 2. Chemical structures of D-2-hydroxyisovaleric acid (D-Hiv) (a), D-2-hydroxy-3-methylpentanoic acid (D-Hmp) (b), and D-2-hydroxybutyric acid (D-Hbu) (c) groups.

Table 1. Elemental composition and molecular weights of beauvericins, enniatins, and their analogues.

Compound	MW	MW + NH ₄ ⁺ (18)	MW + Na ⁺ (23)	MW + K ⁺ (39)	Elemental Composition
Beauvericin	783	801	806	822	C ₄₅ H ₅₇ N ₃ O ₉
Beauvericin A/F/Allob Beauvericin A	797	815	820	836	C ₄₆ H ₅₉ N ₃ O ₉
Beauvericin B/Allob Beauvericin B	811	829	834	850	C ₄₇ H ₆₁ N ₃ O ₉
Beauvericin C/Allob Beauvericin C	825	843	848	864	C ₄₈ H ₆₃ N ₃ O ₉
Beauvericin D	769	787	792	808	C ₄₄ H ₅₅ N ₃ O ₉
Beauvericin E	735	753	758	774	C ₄₁ H ₅₇ N ₃ O ₉
Beauvericin G ₁	769	787	792	808	C ₄₄ H ₅₅ N ₃ O ₉
Beauvericin G ₂	755	773	778	794	C ₄₃ H ₅₃ N ₃ O ₉
Beauvericin J	799	817	822	838	C ₄₅ H ₅₇ N ₃ O ₁₀
Beauvericin K	815	833	838	854	C ₄₅ H ₅₇ N ₃ O ₁₁
Beauvericin L	831	849	854	870	C ₄₅ H ₅₇ N ₃ O ₁₂
Beauvenniatin A	735	753	758	774	C ₄₁ H ₅₇ N ₃ O ₉
Beauvenniatin B	687	705	710	726	C ₃₇ H ₅₇ N ₃ O ₉
Beauvenniatin G ₁ /G ₂ /G ₃	715	733	738	754	C ₃₉ H ₆₁ N ₃ O ₉
Beauvenniatin L	749	767	772	788	C ₄₂ H ₅₉ N ₃ O ₉
Enniatin A/F/MK 1688	681	699	704	720	C ₃₆ H ₆₃ N ₃ O ₉
Enniatin A ₁ /E/I	667	685	690	706	C ₃₅ H ₆₁ N ₃ O ₉
Enniatin A ₂	681	699	704	720	C ₃₅ H ₆₁ N ₃ O ₉
Enniatin B	639	657	662	678	C ₃₃ H ₅₇ N ₃ O ₉
Enniatin B ₁ /B ₄ /D/H	653	671	676	692	C ₃₄ H ₅₉ N ₃ O ₉
Enniatin B ₂ /J ₂ /J ₃ /K ₁	625	643	648	664	C ₃₂ H ₅₅ N ₃ O ₉
Enniatin B ₃ /J ₁	611	629	634	650	C ₃₁ H ₅₃ N ₃ O ₉
Enniatin P ₁	641	659	664	680	C ₃₃ H ₅₇ N ₃ O ₁₀
Enniatin P ₂	655	673	678	694	C ₃₄ H ₅₉ N ₃ O ₁₀

ENNs are typically composed of *N*-methyl-leucine, *N*-methyl-isoleucine and/or *N*-methyl-valine [1][10][41]. However, two of the ENNs: ENN P₁ and P₂ also possess *N*-methyl-tyrosine in their structures [21]. ENN J₁, J₂, and J₃ are another group of ENNs that differ from the common ENNs. These cyclodepsipeptides consist of one *N*-methyl-isoleucine, one *N*-methyl-valine, and *N*-methyl-alanine [43]. Most ENNs contain three groups of D-2-hydroxyisovaleric acid (D-Hiv) and only three ENNs: ENN H, I, and MK 1688, containing one, two, or three groups of D-2-hydroxy-3-methylpentanoic acid (D-Hmp), respectively [44]. Some of the reported ENNs are isomers, with the same amino acid composition but in different positions, e.g., ENN J₁, J₂, J₃ or ENN A and F [39][43][45]. On the other hand, even though the ENNs are not isomers, they share the same molecular weight. Therefore, the MS/MS technique with acid hydrolysis or NMR is sometimes necessary during the detection of cyclodepsipeptides for their correct identification.

BEAEs possess hybrid structures between the aliphatic (enniatin-type) and aromatic (beauvericin-type) cyclodepsipeptides [2][3][26][30]. Moieties of *N*-methyl-phenylalanine, *N*-methyl-leucine, and/or *N*-methyl-valine are the parts of BEAEs' structures. BEAE A contains one *N*-methyl-valine, whereas BEAE B, G₁, G₂, and G₃ have two. BEAE L has one *N*-methyl-leucine in its structure. Apart from the D-2-hydroxyisovaleric acid (D-Hiv) group, three of the BEAE isomers, namely BEAE G₁, G₂, and G₃, contain two D-2-hydroxy-3-methylpentanoic acid (D-Hmp) groups in different combinations. At first, all BEAEs were described as cyclodepsipeptides from *Acremonium* sp., however further research revealed that *Fusarium* species are also able to produce these compounds [2][3][26][30].

3. Biosynthesis

Cyclodepsipeptides are biosynthesized by a multi-domain non-ribosomal peptide synthase (NRPS) that is composed of enzymatic modules used to elongate the proteinogenic and non-proteinogenic amino acids, as well as carboxyl and hydroxy acids [48][49]. The modules respond to the order and number of the precursors incorporated into the chain. Separate NRPS modules are required to assemble the product and a minimal module consists of the three core domains: adenylation (A) domain, thiolation or peptidyl-carrier protein (T or PCP) domain, and condensation (C) domain. Moreover, each module and each active site domain is used only once for the recognition and activation of the precursors through adenylation with ATP (A: adenylation domain), covalent thioester tethering (T: thiolation or PCP: peptidyl carrier protein domain), which tethers the activated precursor to a 4'-phosphopantetheine (PP) cofactor through a thioester bond and transport substrates to the active sites of the domains, and condensation (C domain) of the precursors via catalyzing the peptide bond (C-N) formation between the elongated chain and the activated amino acid. The main domains may be supported by additional domains of the NRPS, such as the epimerization (E) domain, which catalyzes the transformation of an L-amino acid into a D-amino acid, or the dual/epimerization (E/C) domains, which catalyze the epimerization and condensation. NRPSs contain an additional reductase (R) domain, which is responsible for reducing the final peptide, the methylation (MT) domain, which catalyzes N-methylation of the amino acid substrate, the cyclization (Cy) domain that catalyzes the formation of oxazoline or thiazoline rings by internal cyclization of cysteine, serine, or threonine residues, and the oxidation (Ox) domain, which catalyzes the formation of an aromatic thiazol through oxidation of a thiazoline ring. The last domains (TE-thioesterase domains), mostly located at the final NRPS module, are responsible for releasing the full-length NRPS product from the enzyme through cyclization or hydrolysis [48][49][50][51][52].

Enniatin biosynthesis is catalyzed by the 347 kDa multienzyme enniatin synthase (ESYN1) purified for the first time from *Fusarium oxysporum* and further characterized by Zocher and coworkers [53]. Extensive molecular research revealed the basis of cyclic oligopeptide biosynthesis and allowed us to identify *esyn1*, a gene encoding enniatin synthase, as the essential enzyme of the metabolic pathway [39][54][55][56][57]. The biochemical characterization revealed that the enzyme possesses two substrate activation modules EA and EB, composed of approximately 420 amino acid residues. The EA module activates and participates in binding the α -D-hydroxy acids, while the EB module activates the amino acids. These two modules consist of a conserved 4-phosphopantetheine binding site at the C-terminus, with a highly conserved serine residue. An additional 4-phosphopantetheine group and N-methyltransferase domain M are present in the EB module. Also, a putative condensation (C) domain exists between the EA and EB modules. The M domain is highly conserved among N-methyl peptide synthases of prokaryotic and eukaryotic origin, thus it represents only local sequence similarities to the structural elements of other AdoMet-dependent methyltransferases. A dipeptidol unit is formed due to the interaction between the EA and EB modules and later, it is transferred and condensed into a thiol group. Three such successive condensations of the enzyme-bound dipeptidols are followed by the ring's closure into the enniatin (ENN) molecule [4][58][59][60][61] (Figure 3A,B).

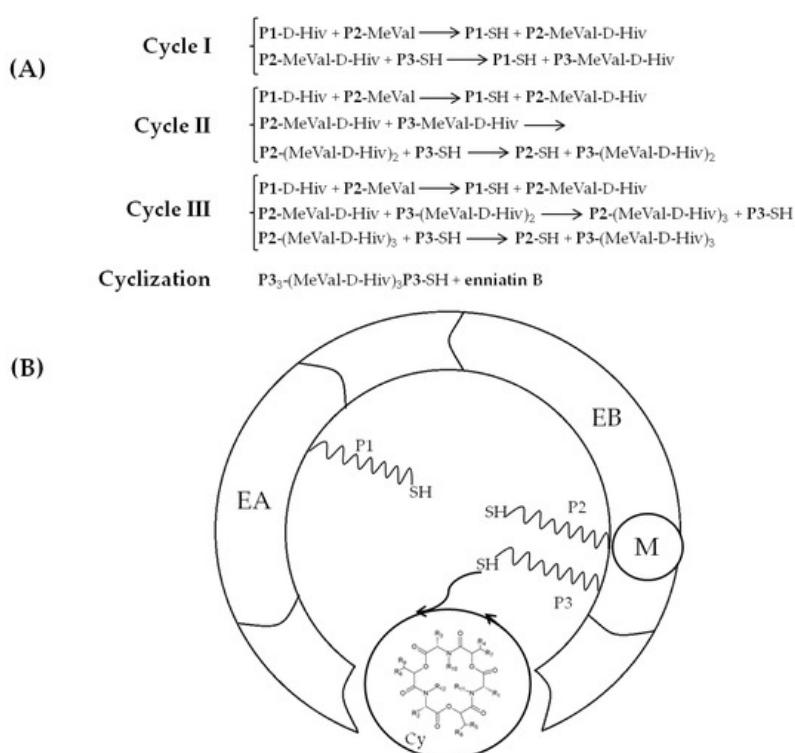


Figure 3. Mechanism of enniatin B formation according to Hornbogen et al. [4]. (A) Scheme of partial reactions leading to the formation of ENN B, P₁, P₂, P₃ = 4'-phosphopantetheine. (B) Model of the arrangement of catalytic sites in enniatin synthase; Cy: cyclization cavity; EA: D-Hiv-activation module; EB: L-valine-activation module; M: N-methyltransferase domain.

The primary precursors of the ENNs are valine, leucine or isoleucine, D-2-hydroxyisovaleric acid, and S-adenosylmethionine and their synthesis is entirely dependent on the cyclization reaction of linear hexadepsipeptide. The amino acid specificity of ESYN1 contributes to the chemical diversity of ENNs and this is why different types of ENNs are produced by *Fusarium scirpi*, *F. lateritium*, and *F. sambucinum*. The Esyn domains activating L-valine in *F. scirpi* and preferably activating L-isoleucine in *F. sambucinum* are nearly identical, with an exception of the three regions showing significant differences in their structures. This difference in the activation can be accredited to the mutations that eventually occurred in the amino acid recognition sites of various enniatin synthases. In spite of the variability in amino acid units, certain ENNs can only be isolated from specific *Fusarium* strains, in which the enniatin synthase prefers some amino acids over others during biosynthesis [4][53][62][63][64][65].

BEAs are also formed as cyclic trimers assembled from three D-Hiv-N-methyl-L-amino acid dipeptidol monomers (Figure 4A) [50][51]. Similarly, they are also produced by a thiol template mechanism and synthesized by beauvericin synthase (BEAS) enzyme, which consists of a single polypeptide chain of about 351 kD [41][50]. For the first time, the 250 kDa BEAS enzyme was characterized by Peeters et al. [66] from the entomopathogenic fungus *Beauveria bassiana*, although Xu et al. [50], who conducted a more in-depth analysis, described a 33,475 bp beauvericin gene cluster including a 9570 bp *bbBeas* gene. Five years later, Zhang and coworkers [51] cloned and characterized 9413 bp beauvericin synthase gene (*fpBeas*) from *Fusarium proliferatum*.

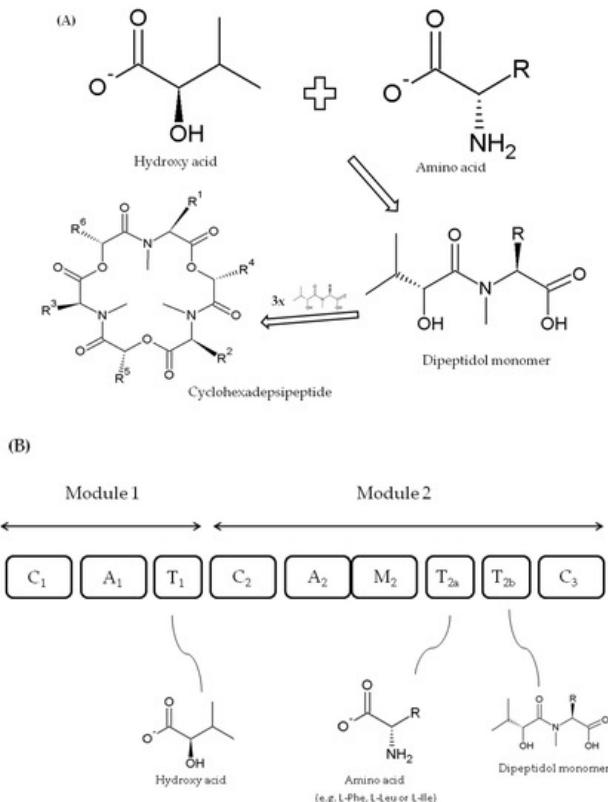


Figure 4. Biosynthesis of fungal cyclodepsipeptides (A) and model of beauvericins (BEAS) synthase structure with domain roles (domains not to scale) (B) according to Xu et al. [50][52].

The C₁, A₁, and T₁ domains within the first module of FpBEAS and ESYN (EA module) synthases have the same role in cyclodepsipeptide formation [51]. Nevertheless, the two depsipeptide synthases differ in A₂ domain substrate specificity within module 2 (ESYN EB module), i.e., apart from that of enniatin synthase, beauvericin synthase preferably accepts *N*-methyl-L-phenylalanine and some other aliphatic hydrophobic amino acids (e.g., leucine or isoleucine) [50]. Furthermore, their incorporation efficiency reduces with the length of side chains, where ortho-, meta-, and para-fluoro-substituted phenylalanine derivatives and *N*-methyl-L-leucine, *N*-methyl-L-norleucine, and *N*-methyl-L-isoleucine residues could replace *N*-methyl-L-phenylalanine. Domains C₂, T_{2a;b}, M₂, and C₃ within module 2 of BEAS and ESYN play the same role in both synthases (Figure 4B) [50][56].

The depsipeptides, including BEAs, have a common 2-hydroxycarboxylic acid ingredient—D-2-hydroxyisovalerate (D-Hiv) that is formed from 2-ketoisovalerate (2-Kiv) by a highly specific chiral reduction reaction catalyzed by 2-ketoisovalerate reductase (KIVR) enzyme [50][52][67][68][69][70]. KIVR has a significant role in the biosynthesis of BEAs as was clearly understood when BEA production was inhibited in a KIVR knock-out *B. bassiana* mutant [67]. Kiv is formed from pyruvate during the biosynthesis of valine and it is the key intermediate in several metabolic pathways, including pantothenate biosynthesis in fungi, bacteria, and plants. It is also involved in producing phosphopantetheinyl prosthetic groups of acyl or peptidyl carrier proteins and co-enzyme A (Figure 5) [50][52][67][69][70].

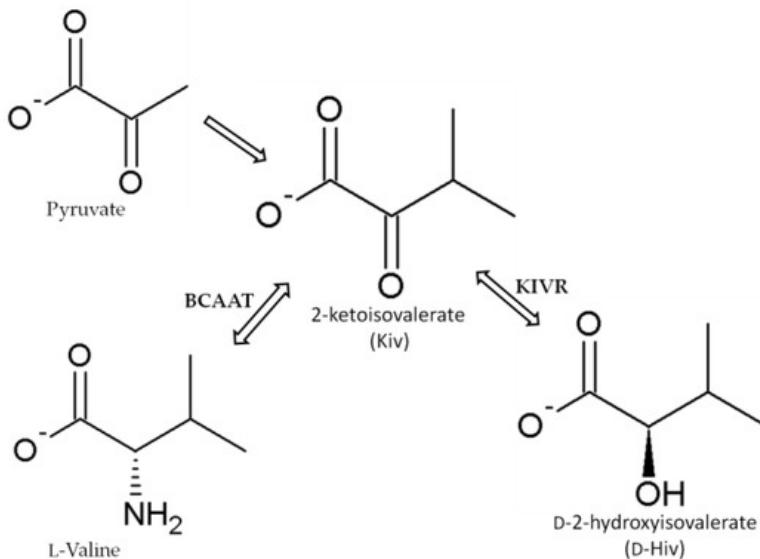


Figure 5. Synthesis of 2-ketoisovalerate (Kiv), a substrate used in the formation of D-2-hydroxyisovaleric acid (D-Hiv) moiety by 2-ketoisovalerate reductase (KIVR) according to Xu et al. [67]. BCAAT: branched-chain amino acid aminotransferase.

Significant sequence homologies were identified for certain *Fusarium* enzymes, which shows a common genetic background for the synthesis of both depsipeptide compounds. Zhang et al. [51] revealed in their analysis that FpBEAS (GenBank acc. no. JF826561.1) has 64% identity to ESYN (GenBank acc. no. CAA79245) as it was proven that some *Fusarium* species, like *F. poae*, *F. proliferatum*, or *F. oxysporum* were found to produce ENNs and BEA simultaneously. This is justified by the fact that both toxins share a metabolic pathway [1][44][71][72]. Reports suggest that there is a high probability that the single PCR based *esyn1*- and/or *BEAS*- specific marker can detect potential BEAs and ENNs-producing fungi from contaminated soil and plant material [39][55][73].

4. Fusarium Species and Cyclodepsipeptide Mycotoxins in Food and Feed

Plant crops are critical mainly in terms of yield and diverse use for foods and feeds. They suffer from a range of fungal diseases and *Fusarium* species are among the most damaging pathogens, producing toxic secondary metabolites, such as cyclodepsipeptides. Cyclodepsipeptides biosynthesis has been observed for 44 *Fusarium* species (Table 2) and *F. acuminatum*, *F. concentricum*, *F. proliferatum*, *F. verticillioides*, *F. oxysporum*, and *F. tricinctum* produce a broad spectrum of ENN, BEA, and BEAE analogues. The remaining *Fusarium* species formed only individual mycotoxin groups, such as BEA, ENNs, or a mixture of these. However, in a few research papers, it was not specified which *Fusarium* species produced ENNs and the presence of mycotoxins was described as a “mix of ENNs” (Table 2).

Table 2. Cyclodepsipeptides mycotoxins produced by various *Fusarium* species.

<i>Fusarium</i> Species	Compound
<i>F. acuminatum</i>	BEA, ENN A, ENN A ₁ , ENN B, ENN B ₁ , ENN B ₂ , ENN B ₃ , ENN B ₄ , ENN P ₁ , ENN P ₂ , BEA C, BEA D, BEA G ₁ , ALLOBEA C
<i>F. acutatum</i>	BEA, mix of ENNs
<i>F. ananatum</i>	BEA, ENN A, ENN B, ENN B ₁
<i>F. anthophilum</i>	BEA, ENN A, ENN B, ENN B ₁
<i>F. arthrosporioides</i>	mix of ENNs

<i>Fusarium</i> Species	Compound
<i>F. avenaceum</i>	BEA, ENN A, ENN A ₁ , ENN B, ENN B ₁ , ENN B ₂ , ENN B ₃ , ENN B ₄
<i>F. beomiforme</i>	BEA
<i>F. bulbicola</i>	BEA
<i>F. circinatum</i>	BEA
<i>F. concentricum</i>	BEA, ENN A, ENN A ₁ , ENN B, ENN B ₁ , BEA A/F, BEA B, BEA C, BEA D, BEA E, BEA G ₁ , BEA G ₂ , BEA J, BEA K, BEA L, BEAE A, BEAE B, BEAE G ₁ /G ₂ /G ₃ , BEAE L, ALLOBEA A, ALLOBEA B, ALLOBEA C
<i>F. compactum</i>	ENN A, ENN A ₁ , ENN B, ENN B ₁ , ENN B ₂
<i>F. culmorum</i>	mix of ENNs, ENN B
<i>F. denticulatum</i>	BEA
<i>F. dlamini</i>	BEA, ENN A, ENN A ₁ , ENN B ₁
<i>F. equiseti</i>	BEA, ENN A, ENN A ₁ , ENN B, ENN B ₁
<i>F. fujikuoii</i>	BEA
<i>F. globosum</i>	BEA
<i>F. guttiforme</i>	BEA
<i>F. graminearum</i>	ENN A, ENN A ₁ , ENN B, ENN B ₁
<i>F. konzum</i>	BEA
<i>F. kyushuense</i>	ENN B, ENN B ₁
<i>F. lacticis</i>	BEA, ENN A, ENN A ₁ , ENN B, ENN B ₁
<i>F. langsethiae</i>	BEA, ENN A ₁ , ENN B, ENN B ₁
<i>F. lateritium</i>	mix of ENNs
<i>F. longipes</i>	BEA
<i>F. merismoides</i>	mix of ENNs
<i>F. nygamai</i>	BEA, ENN A, ENN A ₁ , ENN B
<i>F. oxysporum</i>	BEA, BEA A/F, BEA B, BEA C, BEA D, BEA E, BEA G ₁ , BEA G ₂ , BEA J, BEAE A, BEAE B, BEAE L, ALLOBEA A, ALLOBEA B, ALLOBEA C, ENN A ₁ , ENN B, ENN B ₁ , ENN H, ENN I, ENN MK1688
<i>F. poae</i>	BEA, ENN A, ENN A ₁ , ENN B, ENN B ₁
<i>F. phyllophilum</i>	BEA
<i>F. proliferatum</i>	BEA, ENN A ₁ , ENN B, ENN B ₁ , BEA A/F, BEA B, BEA C, BEA D, BEA E, BEA G ₁ , BEA G ₂ , BEA J, BEA K, BEAE A, BEAE B, BEAE L, ALLOBEA A, ALLOBEA B, ALLOBEA C
<i>F. pseudoanthophilum</i>	BEA
<i>F. pseudocircinatum</i>	BEA
<i>F. redolens</i>	BEA
<i>F. sacchari</i>	BEA
<i>F. sambucinum</i>	BEA, mix of ENNs
<i>F. scirpi</i>	mix of ENNs
<i>F. semitectum</i>	BEA
<i>F. sporotrichioides</i>	BEA, ENN A, ENN B, ENN B ₁ , ENN A ₁
<i>F. subglutinans</i>	BEA, ENN A, ENN B, ENN B ₁
<i>F. succisae</i>	BEA

Fusarium Species	Compound
<i>F. temperatum</i>	BEA, ENN A, ENN A ₁ , ENN B, ENN B ₁
<i>F. torulosum</i>	ENN B
<i>F. tricinctum</i>	BEA, ENN A, ENN A ₁ , ENN B, ENN B ₁ , ENN B ₄ , ENN J ₁
<i>F. verticillioides</i>	BEA, ENN B, ENN B ₁ , BEA C, BEA D, BEA G ₁ , BEA K, BEAE A, ALLOBEAE C

"ENN"—enniatin; "BEA"—beauvericin; "ALLOBEAE"—allobeauvericin; "BEAE"—beauvenniatin.

Fusarium species can cause many plant diseases and one of them is *Fusarium* head blight (FHB), which is devastating for cereal species, particularly as it is a major problem regarding wheat production in many countries. Usually, one or more *Fusarium* species (*F. graminearum*, *F. culmorum*, *F. avenaceum*, *F. poae*, and *F. sporotrichioides*) are involved as causal agents [74]. The occurrence of many *Fusarium* species may increase the accumulation of mycotoxins in grains or plants and introduce them into the food chain [71][75][76]. Humidity and temperature determine the disease severity, but geographical conditions, plant genotype, and local pathogen populations also play essential roles [54][77].

Available literature data relate both to identifying *Fusarium* fungi isolated from various hosts and analyzing their mycotoxin biosynthesis capacity (Table 3). Efforts are also being made to assess contamination levels with these toxins of raw plant materials and food and feed products (Table 4). Mainly, the content of BEA and four ENNs (ENN A, ENN A₁, ENN B, ENN B₁) has been investigated [8][25]. BEA and ENNs are common contaminants and were detected in plant crops and grains throughout the world. The occurrence of BEA, ENN A, ENN A₁, ENN B, and ENN B₁ in naturally contaminated crops has been studied much more extensively than the occurrence of other cyclodepsipeptides [1][39]. Table 3 summarizes the most effective producers of depsipeptides among *Fusarium* fungi isolated from different crops and geographical areas. *F. avenaceum*, *F. equiseti*, *F. proliferatum*, and *F. sporotrichioides* were the most common species isolated from plants. The best producer of BEA was *F. proliferatum* (FPG61_CM), isolated from garlic in Spain, with the concentration reaching 671.80 µg/g [6]. The highest yielding producers of ENNs were *F. avenaceum* (KF1330), isolated from wheat in Poland, and *F. tricinctum* (3405), isolated from wheat in Finland [5][39]. Both strains produced in the highest amounts ENN B (895.46 µg/g, 690 µg/g) and ENN B₁ (452.46 µg/g, 1200 µg/g) [5][39].

Table 3. The strains of *Fusarium* species from different origins and hosts, producing the highest amounts of cyclodepsipeptides [µg/g].

Species	ID Strain	Host	Origin	ENN A	ENN A ₁	ENN B	ENN B ₁	ENN B ₂	ENN B ₃	BEA	Analytical Method
<i>F. acuminatum</i>	KF 3713	Pea	Poland	19.62	26.92	90.89	31.49	NA	NA	5.31	HPLC
<i>F. ananatum</i>	KF 3557	Pineapple	Costa Rica	6.94	ND	8.81	27.60	NA	NA	27.68	HPLC
<i>F. avenaceum</i>	KF 3803	Asparagus	Poland	ND	≤0.01	0.03	ND	NA	NA	ND	HPLC
	11B14	Barley	Italy	10.9	193	45	172	55	1.58	NA	LC-MS/MS
	KF 3717	Pea	Poland	6.09	5.65	6.71	11.46	NA	NA	ND	HPLC
	Fa40	Wheat	Italy	165.8	109.2	35.5	60.2	NA	NA	ND	LC-DAD
	KF 1337	Wheat	Poland	34.55	71.90	895.46	452.46	NA	NA	ND	HPLC
	44	Wheat	Italy	7.24	34.3	6.6	17.8	0.67	≤0.01	≤0.01	LC-MS/MS
	Fa34	Wheat	Italy	332.8	181.7	64.9	101.9	NA	NA	ND	LC-DAD
	KF 3390	Maize	Poland	29.12	32.40	255.08	138.15	NA	NA	ND	HPLC
<i>F. concentricum</i>	KF 3755	Pineapple	Costa Rica	11.40	8.69	17.33	18.17	NA	NA	312.2	HPLC
<i>F. culmorum</i>	KF 3798	Asparagus	Poland	ND	ND	0.06	ND	NA	NA	ND	HPLC

Species	ID Strain	Host	Origin	ENN A	ENN A ₁	ENN B	ENN B ₁	ENN B ₂	ENN B ₃	BEA	Analytical Method
<i>F. equiseti</i>	KF 3563	Asparagus	Poland	43.47	36.81	29.18	30.39	NA	NA	ND	HPLC
	KF 3749	Tomato	Poland	39.27	38.18	ND	29.22	NA	NA	ND	HPLC
	KF 3430	Banana	Ecuador	31.17	32.15	32.98	41.22	NA	NA	ND	HPLC
	Fee16	Wheat	Italy	ND	≤0.01	≤0.01	≤0.01	NA	NA	≤0.01	LC-DAD
	Fee136	Wheat	Italy	≤0.01	0.02	≤0.01	0.02	NA	NA	ND	LC-DAD
<i>F. fujikuroi</i>	KF 3631	Rice	Thailand	ND	ND	ND	ND	NA	NA	428.09	HPLC
<i>F. globosum</i>	6646	Maize	South Africa	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	110	LC-MS
<i>F. lactis</i>	KF 3641	Pepper	Poland	30.97	26.94	ND	ND	NA	NA	ND	HPLC
<i>F. nygamai</i>	KF 337	Pigeon Pea	India	10.45	ND	9.50	ND	NA	NA	22.86	HPLC
<i>F. oxysporum</i>	KF 3567	Garlic	Poland	ND	6.42	8.25	7.28	NA	NA	80.03	HPLC
	KF 3805	Asparagus	Poland	ND	ND	ND	ND	NA	NA	0.53	HPLC
<i>F. poae</i>	Fp26	Wheat	Italy	≤0.01	0.07	0.03	0.05	NA	NA	3.5	LC-DAD
	156	Wheat	Italy	≤0.01	0.03	0.03	ND	ND	ND	10.5	LC-MS/MS
	Fp49	Wheat	Italy	≤0.01	0.1	0.05	0.04	NA	NA	9.4	LC-DAD
	KF 2576	Maize	Poland	34.31	26.89	28.71	ND	NA	NA	37.53	HPLC
<i>F. proliferatum</i>	KF 3382	Pineapple	Hawaii	ND	ND	ND	ND	NA	NA	3.39	HPLC
	FPG61_CM	Garlic	Spain	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	671.80	HPLC
	KF 3363	Garlic	Poland	ND	ND	ND	ND	NA	NA	45.13	HPLC
	KF 3792	Asparagus	Poland	ND	0.39	0.13	0.06	NA	NA	0.41	HPLC
	KF 3584	Rice	Thailand	ND	6.39	12.92	19.64	NA	NA	291.87	HPLC
	KF 3560	Rhubarb	Poland	ND	ND	ND	ND	NA	NA	149.67	HPLC
	KF 496	Maize	Italy	ND	5.48	9.61	12.89	NA	NA	ND	HPLC
<i>F. sambucinum</i>	179	Wheat	Italy	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	10.1	LC-MS/MS
<i>F. subglutinans</i>	1084	Maize	South Africa	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	700	LC-MS
<i>F. sporotrichioides</i>	KF 3815	Asparagus	Poland	ND	0.09	ND	ND	NA	NA	0.21	HPLC
	KF 3728	Pea	Poland	12.67	ND	5.99	18.15	NA	NA	5.13	HPLC
	Fsp50	Wheat	Italy	ND	≤0.01	≤0.01	0.02	NA	NA	13.7	LC-DAD
<i>F. temperatum</i>	194	Wheat	Italy	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	6.89	LC-MS/MS
	KF 3321	Pineapple	Costa Rica	27.79	34.39	39.20	29.21	NA	NA	290.97	HPLC
	RCFT 934	Maize	Argentina	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	1151	HPLC
	KF 506	Maize	Poland	ND	ND	15.17	9.88	NA	NA	17.47	HPLC
	KF 3795	Asparagus	Poland	0.1	0.17	0.28	0.38	NA	NA	0.55	HPLC
<i>F. tricinctum</i>	27B14	Wheat	Italy	8.45	118	39	124	27	0.13	NA	LC-MS/MS
Sample	3405	Origin	Wheat	Finland	ENN A _{NA}	ENN A ₉₄	ENN B ₆₉₀	ENN B ₁₂₀₀	ENN B _{NA}	ENN B ₃₃	BEA HPLC
Asparagus		Poland			ND	0.05	0.06	ND	NA	0.1	

Table 4. Maximum levels [μg/g] of naturally occurring depsipeptides in foods and feeds from different countries

Sample Species	ID	Strain	Origin	Host	Origin	E _{NN} A _A	E _{NN} A _{A₁}	E _{NN} B _B	E _{NN} B _{B₁}	E _{NN} B _{B₂}	E _{NN} B _{B₃}	E _{NN} B ₄ BEA	Analytical Method
<i>F. verticillioides</i>	KF_393		Italy Maize	USA		ND ND	ND ND	ND 8.75	ND 12.43	≤0.01 NA	0.02 NA	0.02 2.34	≤0.01 HPLC
			Italy			0.02	0.06	0.07	0.07	0.07	NA	NA	≤0.01
			Finland			0.95	2	9.76	5.72	NA	NA	0.02	
			Barley		Morocco	ND	220	49	32	NA	NA	5	
					Norway	≤0.01	0.04	0.49	0.17	NA	NA	≤0.01	
					Spain	ND	361.57	21.37	45.94	NA	NA	6.94	
					Tunisia	33.6	149	29.2	31	NA	NA	NA	
					Brazil	≤0.01	0.31	≤0.01	≤0.01	NA	NA	0.16	
					Croatia	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	1.84	
					Denmark	≤0.01	≤0.01	0.58	0.09	NA	NA	0.09	
					Japan	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.03	
					Morocco	ND	445	100	8	NA	NA	59	
			Maize		Poland	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	1.73	
					Serbia	0.02	0.03	≤0.01	0.02	NA	NA	0.14	
					Slovakia	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	3	
					Spain	ND	813.01	6.31	4.34	NA	NA	9.31	
					Tunisia	ND	29.6	ND	17	NA	NA	NA	
					USA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.5	
					Finland	≤0.01	≤0.01	0.02	≤0.01	NA	NA	0.02	
			Oats		Italy	ND	≤0.01	≤0.01	ND	0.05	NA	≤0.01	
					Norway	≤0.01	≤0.01	0.05	0.02	NA	NA	0.02	
			Rice		Iran	ND	≤0.01	ND	ND	ND	ND	≤0.01	
					Spain	ND	814.42	7.95	ND	NA	NA	11.78	
			Rye		Finland	ND	≤0.01	0.05	≤0.01	NA	ND		
					Italy	≤0.01	ND	≤0.01	ND	≤0.01	ND	≤0.01	
			Sorghum		Tunisia	95.6	480	ND	120.1	NA	NA		
			Spelt wheat		Italy	≤0.01	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	
					Finland	0.49	0.94	18.3	5.1	NA	NA	≤0.01	
					Italy	≤0.01	≤0.01	0.02	≤0.01	0.04	NA	≤0.01	
					Morocco	0.08	0.13	2.57	0.35	NA	NA	0.02	
					Morocco	34	209	11	19	NA	NA	4	
					Norway	≤0.01	0.02	0.79	0.18	NA	NA	≤0.01	
					Poland	0.27	3.6	28.52	11.8	NA	NA	0.02	
					Romania	0.14	0.36	0.41	0.51	NA	NA	NA	
					Spain	ND	634.85	ND	ND	NA	NA	3.5	
					Tunisia	75.1	177.7	180.6	58.5	NA	NA	NA	
					UK	0.04	0.17	0.13	0.30	NA	NA	NA	

Sample	Origin	ENN A	ENN A ₁	ENN B	ENN B ₁	ENN B ₄	BEA
Breakfast cereals	Morocco	29.7	688	81.1	795	NA	5.3
	Spain	ND	268.54	ND	ND	NA	3.12
	Tunisia	121.3	480	295	120.1	NA	NA
Infant cereals	Morocco	ND	52	5.7	14.5	NA	10.6
Pasta	Italy	≤0.01	≤0.01	0.11	≤0.01	≤0.01	ND
Oat flour	Spain	ND	388.38	ND	ND	NA	4.18
Wheat flour	Japan	≤0.01	0.03	0.63	0.09	NA	≤0.01
Corn grits	Japan	ND	ND	ND	ND	NA	0.03
Bovine feed	Spain	ND	≤0.01	0.04	0.02	NA	0.05
Ovine feed	Spain	ND	≤0.01	0.09	0.03	NA	0.13
Caprine feed	Spain	ND	≤0.01	0.02	≤0.01	NA	0.02
Horses feed	Spain	ND	≤0.01	0.04	≤0.01	NA	0.03
Porcine feed	Finland	0.31	0.55	1.51	1.85	NA	0.41
	Spain	ND	≤0.01	0.06	0.02	NA	≤0.01
Poultry feed	Brazil	ND	≤0.01	≤0.01	≤0.01	NA	0.02
	Spain	ND	≤0.01	0.05	0.02	NA	0.02
	UK	0.04	0.03	2.19	0.40	NA	0.48
Rabbits feed	Spain	ND	≤0.01	0.05	0.02	NA	≤0.01
Dogs feed	Spain	ND	≤0.01	0.02	≤0.01	NA	0.04
Cats feed	Spain	ND	ND	≤0.01	≤0.01	NA	ND
Fish feed	Scotland/Norway/ Spain	≤0.01	≤0.01	0.03	≤0.01	NA	0.08

"ND"—not detected; "NA"—not analyzed.

Table 4 presents the maximum amounts of BEA and ENNs in naturally contaminated plant crops described in the literature. The highest contamination level of BEA was found to be 1731.55 µg/g in Polish maize [95]. When compared to other cyclodepsipeptides, it was also the highest concentration of mycotoxin in crops. In Tunisian sorghum, maximum concentrations of ENN A (95.6 µg/g) and ENN B₁ (120.1 µg/g) were detected [96]. The highest amount of ENN A₁ was 813.01 µg/g and 814.42 µg/g in Spanish maize and rice, respectively [97]. ENN B was found with a maximum level of 180.6 µg/g in Tunisian wheat [96]. The data show very high variability of investigated cyclodepsipeptides and it can be concluded that each strain of *Fusarium* species possesses a unique ability to biosynthesize these compounds. In addition to crops, cyclodepsipeptides are also found in food and feed [98][99][100][101][102][103]. Cyclodepsipeptides were identified mainly in cereal food, with very high levels of ENN A₁ and B₁ in breakfast cereals from Morocco (668 and 795 µg/g, respectively) [99]. In feed samples, ENNs and BEA levels were very low and did not exceed 0.48 µg/g for BEA (poultry feed) and 2.19 µg/g for ENNs (poultry feed) [101].

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