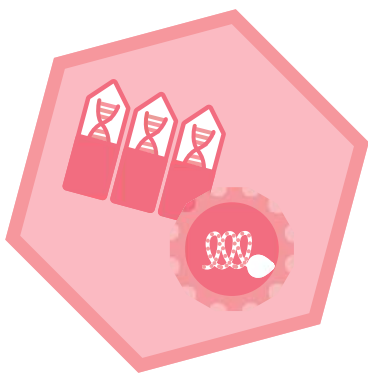


Iflaviruses are small RNA viruses that infect insects & are transmitted vertically: parent-to-offspring.

Baculoviruses are covered by a protein occlusion body (OB). They kill their hosts & release OBs for horizontal (insect-to-insect) transmission.



In hosts co-infected with both viruses, **iflaviruses 'hitchhike' in baculovirus OBs** to achieve horizontal transmission.

OBs protect iflaviruses from environmental factors such as **UV radiation**, extending the viral stability in the field.

