

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| Index of abbreviations   | iv        |
| Index of figures   | v         |
| Summary  | 1         |
| Zusammenfassung  | 2         |
| <b>1. Introduction</b>   | <b>4</b>  |
| 1.1 Insects and their microbiota   | 4         |
| 1.2 Insects in the lab   | 6         |
| 1.3 Application of probiotics  | 8         |
| 1.4 Insects as food source   | 10        |
| 1.6 Objectives of the thesis   | 12        |
| <b>2. Presentation of the publications</b>   | <b>13</b> |
| 2.1 A comparison of Wolbachia infection frequencies in Varroa with prevalence of Deformed Wing Virus   | 13        |
| 2.2 Probiotic <i>Enterococcus mundtii</i> Isolate Protects the Model Insect <i>Tribolium castaneum</i> against <i>Bacillus thuringiensis</i> | 15        |
| 2.3 Feeding probiotics changes bacterial but not fungal gut biota in <i>Tribolium castaneum</i> larvae                                       | 17        |
| 2.4 Sustainable farming of the mealworm <i>Tenebrio molitor</i> for the production of food and feed  | 20        |
| <b>3. Conclusion</b>   | <b>22</b> |
| <b>4. References</b>   | <b>24</b> |
| <b>5. Conference contribution</b>  | <b>37</b> |
| <b>6. Curriculum Vitae</b>   | <b>38</b> |
| <b>7. Acknowledgment</b>   | <b>39</b> |
| <b>8. Erklärung</b>  | <b>40</b> |
| <b>9. Publications</b>   | <b>41</b> |