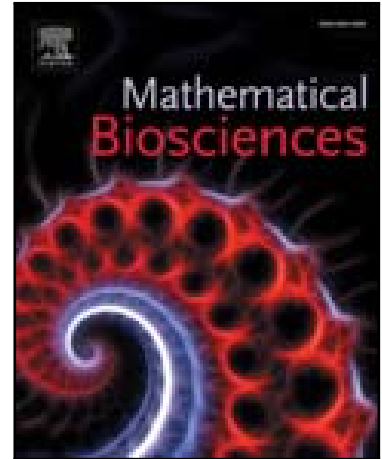


## Accepted Manuscript

Coupled, multi-strain epidemic models of mutating pathogens

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**Highlights**

- We introduce and analyze a general, coupled, multi-strain epidemic model
- We derive explicit expressions for the basic reproduction number of each strain
- We investigate the competitive dynamics among the coupled, co-circulating strains

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