



## Honeybees as Environmental Monitors

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### Message from the Guest Editor

A honeybee colony is a well-organized unit of social life that is composed of highly interacting groups of single organisms with different duties, age-dependent behavioral routines, and experience. Honeybees are the most important pollinators of fruit-bearing flowers, and share similar ecological niches with many other pollinators. The health of a honeybee colony can reflect the conditions of a whole ecosystem. The performance of the colony is reflected in its growth, brood production, homeostasis of physical and chemical parameters, and the social signals that bees exchange during their sophisticated body movements such as the waggle dance. Dance activities tightly mirror foraging activities across an area of some 5 km radius around a hive. Since a dance codes the outbound component of the flight to the pollinated flowers or other food sources, available information potentially allows the spatial tracking of pollination activities.





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## Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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