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# Edible Insects as Innovative Foods: Nutritional, Functional and Acceptability Assessments

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## Message from the Guest Editors

Will insects be the food of the future?

The answer is that we aren't sure yet, but what we are certain of is that insects in the past were indeed a food item appreciated by humankind worldwide. Various edible insect species have had their farming potential assessed, their acceptability as a novelty food (or feed in animal husbandry and fish culture) examined and their potential risk of carrying diseases or undesired microbes scrutinized.

We now possess a considerable amount of information on the kinds of insect that serve as food to various people in the world; we know that most insects are nutritious, consist of valuable protein, easily digestible fatty acids, and contain important minerals and vitamins, and recommendations exist regarding how to breed the most lucrative species optimally. However, there are still gaps to be filled with regard to the processing of cultured insects, the preparation and conservation of insect-based foods, economics and marketing, and the potential of insects as suppliers of health-promoting drugs and medicines.









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#### Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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