



Ecologically Important Symbioses in Insects

Guest Editor:

Prof. Dr. Kerry M. Oliver

Department of Entomology,
University of Georgia, Athens, GA
30602, USA

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Message from the Guest Editor

Insects perform critical functions in natural and managed terrestrial ecosystems that are often mediated by microorganisms. For example, microbial symbionts influence herbivore interactions with plants by synthesizing limiting nutrients, breaking down difficult-to-digest plant polymers, and detoxifying plant defenses. Symbionts also influence interactions with natural enemies by producing bioactive compounds that disable threats. Thus, ‘hidden’ microbial players can have large effects on insect performance with large implications for food security and natural systems challenged by climate disruption. We are pleased to invite original research papers and review articles focused on ecological symbioses. Suitable topics for this Special Issue include (but are not limited to) research on symbiont-mediated phenotypes, mechanisms underlying symbiont function, symbiont genomics, coordination of host and symbiont functions, symbiont transmission, interactions between insect immunity and symbionts, the population dynamics of ecological symbioses, and the manner in which a changing climate impacts insect–microbe interactions.

