


Chemical Ecology of Insect Parasitoids

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Insect parasitoids are a fascinating group of animals in many respects. Perhaps the most fascinating point is that these insects, in the course of the evolutionary time, have developed an impressive way to use chemical compounds to dialogue with the different protagonists of their environment (*i.e.*, conspecifics, their hosts and the plants on which their hosts are living). Unravelling the evolutionary meaning of such chemical communication networks can give new insights into the ecology of these insects and especially on how to improve their use for the control of noxious pests in biological control programmes.

Chemical Ecology of Insect Parasitoids is a timely publication, with organised chapters to present the most important knowledge and discoveries that have taken place over the last decade, and their potential use in pest control strategy. Specific relevant case studies are presented to enhance the reader's experience.

Suited to graduate students and professional researchers and practitioners in pest management, entomology, evolutionary biology, behavioural ecology, and chemical ecology, this book is essential for anyone needing information on this important group of insects.

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Editorial Review

Review

“This volume will contribute to future syntheses and help integrate insect parasitoids within chemical and community ecology and, hopefully, eventual strategic applications in pest management programs. Summing Up: Recommended. Graduate students, researchers/faculty, and professionals.” (*Choice*, 1 January 2014)

From the Back Cover

Insect parasitoids, in the course of their evolutionary history, have developed many impressive ways to use chemical signals to communicate with and sense the different protagonists in their environments (*i.e.*, conspecifics, their hosts and the plants on which their hosts are living). Unravelling the evolutionary meaning of such chemical communication networks can give new insights into the ecology of these important insects and especially on how to improve their use for the control of noxious pests in biological control programmes.

Written by a team of leading international specialists, the book comprehensively covers current knowledge of the chemical ecology of insect parasitoids. Chapters are organized in order to present the most significant discoveries of the last few decades, and on their potential application in pest control strategies. Specific relevant case studies are also presented. The book is intended to be accessible to a large number of potential readers from University students to senior scientists worldwide.

About the Author

Eric Wajnberg is a research scientist working at the Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique (INRA), Sophia Antipolis, France. He is a population biologist specializing in behavioural ecology, population genetics and statistical modelling. He is also an expert in biological control, with almost 30 years experience working on insect parasitoids.

Stefano Colazza is based at the University of Palermo, Italy. He is a specialist in infochemicals and behavioural ecology of plant, insect herbivores, and insect parasitoid interactions, with a special interest in the chemical ecology of plant volatile organic compounds in a tri-trophic context. He has been involved in these research areas for over 30 years.

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