

Special Issue

Chemical Ecology of Orchids: Signals, Symbiosis, and Survival

Message from the Guest Editors

We all know how fascinating the Orchidaceae family is; the intricate ecological networks they establish are, however, still far from being completely understood. Besides the relationship between orchids and their pollinators, which is often based on fine deceptive mechanisms, orchids are also strongly dependent on the symbiotic relationships with soil fungi. Orchids are also able to colonize a wide range of habitats, including heavily disturbed ones, and biogenic volatile organic compounds (BVOCs) may have a role in such ecological plasticity. The considerable number of species, together with their environmental adaptability, make the Orchidaceae family a promising taxon for bioprospecting activities and for the search of novel compounds of interest. Orchids are also a threatened element of ecosystems, making it crucial to deepen our understanding of their autecology to ensure effective conservation strategies. This Special Issue aims to provide an overview of the current research on the chemical ecology of orchids in a broader sense, encompassing the topics described above. We welcome reviews, as well as short communications and research articles.

Guest Editors

Dr. Antonio De Agostini

Department of Life and Environmental Sciences, University of Cagliari, Cagliari, Italy

Dr. Pierluigi Cortis

Department of Life and Environmental Sciences, University of Cagliari, Via S. Ignazio da Laconi 13, 09123 Cagliari, Italy

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Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland
Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
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Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Michael Wink

Institute of Pharmacy and Molecular Biotechnology, Heidelberg
University, Im Neuenheimer Feld 329, D-69120 Heidelberg, Germany

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