

Topical Collection

Plant Responses to Insect Herbivores

Message from the Collection Editors

Insect herbivores are the most abundant and diverse attackers of plants, thereby inducing defensive traits that influence consumers at higher trophic levels. Plants have evolved complex defense mechanisms to withstand and counter herbivore attack with a variety of induced responses. Upon attack by insect herbivores, plants emit a mixture of volatile organic compounds that can act as both attractants and repellents to further colonization by the same or other insect species. These herbivore-induced plant-volatiles can provide specific information on the status of the plant to various community members both below and aboveground, including predators, herbivores and pollinators. With the application of new methods, a better understanding of the interactions between plants and insects can be revealed that can transform crop production through increased disease resistance and crop yield. We encourage original research submissions, as well as review/mini review articles, concerning basic aspects and future directions in the field.

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