



Sociobiology

An international journal on social insects

Editorial

Special Issue on Arthropod-plant Interactions

Sociobiology is a journal dedicated to the study of social insects. Thus, social behavior, taxonomic aspects, life history studies and behavioral ecology of ants, bees and wasps prevail in published papers. However, these animals present in their biology a long history of evolved and coevolved interactions with plants. This evolution timeline began firstly with social insects as herbivores, chewing on leaves, roots, buds and petals. Then, later evolutionary radiation of some groups allowed the rise of those species that could feed on pollen or suck exudates, secretions and soft plant tissues. This evolutionary history continued later on when social insects established several harmonic relationships with plants, such as pollination, seed dispersion and plant protection. These relationships are indeed very common in all natural systems. Although the implications of these insect-plant interactions to the comprehension of the structure and function of natural communities are enormous, articles with such an approach are very few in Sociobiology. For this main reason and to stimulate the publication of this type of studies in Sociobiology the editors decided to support this special issue and we are very happy with the results. People of four continents contributed with research conducted in totally different ecosystems, involving bees, wasps, ants and associated fauna and flora. We hope that several of the papers published here will have a significant impact on our comprehension of how social insects impact plant-animal interactions in natural communities. We are very thankful to every colleague that believed in this idea.

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