

# Plants - insects - microbes

## An ecological dance for three

A new Current Themes Symposium

November 7, 2008

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### Plants - insects - microbes: An ecological dance for three

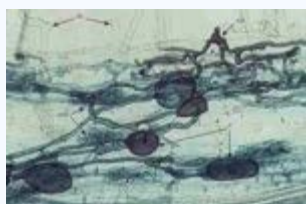
This seminar focuses on recent developments in the ecology of plant-insect interactions and in particular will explore the role of micro-organisms as mediators in these interactions.

A growing number of recent studies have shown that micro-organisms are important mediators of nutritional and informational interactions. Bacteria and fungi, both those living in the root environment and in aerial plant organs, assist plants in direct and indirect defence against insects while microbial symbionts, associated with the insect digestive system, benefit insects nutritionally.



Studies of the multiple interconnections between microbes, plants and insects receive a growing interest. In this symposium the subject is approached both from organismal and ecological perspectives, exploring how taxonomic - and functional genomics can contribute to insights into the effects of these three-party interactions on the community level.

Images from: [www.bugsinthepicture.nl](http://www.bugsinthepicture.nl).



## Organisation

**Organisation:**

[Dr. Joop van Loon & Dr. Bart Knols, Laboratory of Entomology, Wageningen University.](#)

[Dr. Claudius van de Vijver Graduate School Production Ecology and Resource Conservation, Wageningen University.](#)

**Advice and overview:**

[Prof. Hans de Kroon, Experimental Plant Ecology, Radboud University Nijmegen, The Netherlands.](#)

**Logistics:** [Edith Kok, Netherlands Institute of Ecology.](#)

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**For practical questions:**

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## Location of the Plants-Insects-Microbes Symposium

**Date:** November 7, 2008

**Venue:** WICC, Wageningen The Netherlands

**Admission, including lunch:** € 40,- (Students & PhDs: € 20,-)

**Starting time:** 10.00 hrs.

**Registration:** [Click here to register](#)

[Address and route](#) to the Wageningen International Conference Centre (WICC).

### Programme

[Print version](#)

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| 10.00-10.25 | Registration and coffee   |
| 10.25-10.30 | Introduction by the organisers.   |
| 10.30-11.10 | <b>Marcel Dicke</b> , Laboratory of Entomology, Wageningen University, The Netherlands.<br><a href="#">Plant attacker interactions: from gene to community.</a>   |
| 11.10-11.50 | <b>Hans van Veen</b> , Centre for Terrestrial Ecology, Netherlands Institute of Ecology (NIOO), Heteren, The Netherlands (to be confirmed).<br><a href="#">Feed-backs between plant defense compounds and soil-borne microbial communities.</a> |
| 11.50-12.30 | <b>Tom Wilkinson</b> , College of Life Sciences, School of Biology & Environmental Science, University College Dublin, Ireland.<br><a href="#">Aphid symbionts: nutrition and population dynamics.</a>  |
| 12.30-13.30 | Lunch   |
| 13.30-14:10 | <b>Corné Pieterse</b> , Phytopathology, Utrecht University, The Netherlands.<br><a href="#">Induced Systemic Resistance – non-pathogenic root bacteria: effects on herbivorous insects and their natural enemies.</a>                           |
| 14.10-14.50 | <b>Jochen Krauss</b> , Department of Animal Ecology I, Population Ecology, University of Bayreuth, Germany.<br><a href="#">Endophytes: their role in multitrophic interactions.</a>   |
| 14.50-15.20 | Tea   |
| 15.20-15.50 | <b>Alan Gange</b> , School of Biological Sciences, University of London, UK.<br><a href="#">Mycorrhizal fungi and effects on insects.</a>   |
| 15.60-16.40 | <b>Marcel van der Heijden</b> , Research Station Agroscope, Zurich, Switzerland.<br><a href="#">Soil microbes as drivers of plant diversity and productivity in terrestrial ecosystems.</a>   |
| 16.40       | End   |