

S2P1**Microbial Contribution to Plant-Insect Interactions**

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Abstract

Plant-associated microbial communities not only affect plant phenotype and fitness but also can alter ecological interactions with other organisms. Microbial communities can directly affect plant physiology and growth and can metabolize plant compounds and produce novel compounds that are detectable to insects. In turn, microbial communities associated with plants can affect insect host plant selection, foraging behavior, and metabolism of plant tissues, with consequences for plant performance and fitness. In this talk, I will discuss a few of the ways in which microbial effects on plant phenotype can cascade to influence plant-herbivore and plant-pollinator interactions. Examples will include how rhizosphere microbial communities affect plant defense against herbivores, and how microbial growth in flowers affect pollinator behavior and plant reproduction. I conclude this talk by highlighting areas for future study.

