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Ecology and Evolution of Myrmecophilous Associations

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Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Colleagues,

Associations with ants range from mutualistic to parasitic and can involve distantly related organisms. Since the first attempts to describe the amazing diversity of species interacting with ants, current research has dissected various aspects of these associations. Several studies have investigated the coevolution between partners, the morphological or behavioral adaptations, the communication signals involved in the interactions, and the relative fitness of partners using a multidisciplinary approach that enables tackling the complexity of these relationships.

We believe that the outcomes obtained so far will pave the way to understanding how myrmecophily could have played a pivotal role in the evolution and ecology of several organisms and shaped the community structure of many terrestrial ecosystems.

This Special Issue will focus on the underlying mechanisms fostering associations between ants and various organisms. We will target all groups of myrmecophiles in the broader sense, including insects but also other invertebrates, fungi, and plants. Physiological, ethological, and ecological studies are welcomed.