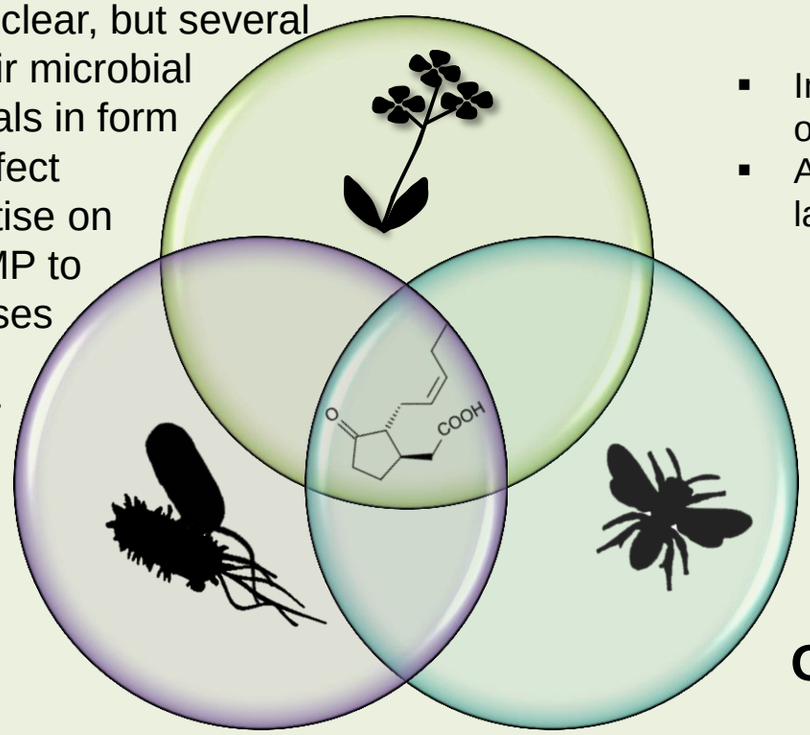
A new Research Initiative

FI_2MP

Functional Interactions between Insects, Microbes and Plants

Why FI_2MP?

Plants, insects and microbes interact and communicate with each other. The functional consequences are still unclear, but several scientific studies indicate that plants select their microbial partners for specific purposes by sending signals in form of peptide or volatile compounds which also affect interactions with insects. Combining our expertise on this fascinating research field, we initiated FI_2MP to offer interdisciplinary Bachelor and Master theses to study the molecular background of these interactions as well as translational aspects for medical and ecological sciences.



FI_2MP Groups:

Stefan Dötterl: Pollination Ecology
www.uni-salzburg.at/ecoevo/stefan.doetterl
Anja Hörger: Plant-Pathogen Interactions
www.uni-salzburg.at/ecoevo/anja.hoerger
Robert R. Junker: Community Ecology and Flower Microbiome
www.uni-salzburg.at/ecoevo/robert.junker
Gerhard Obermeyer: Plant Biophysics and Biochemistry
www.uni-salzburg.at/mpbb
Silja Weßler: Pathogen-Host Interaction
www.uni-salzburg.at/Wessler

We offer exciting BACHELOR and MASTER theses within the FI_2MP consortium:

- Interdisciplinary theses ranging from small molecules to organisms and communities.
- A stimulating research environment and well-equipped labs with up-to-date techniques
  - An intensive supervision and education by at least two PIs
  - Research covers different biological levels and disciplines; from molecular biochemistry and biophysics over cell biology to entire organisms and ecosystems.

Our Projects include:

Bacteria, Volatiles and Plant Reproduction: Is pollen germination and tube growth during pollination promoted by bacteria and volatiles?
Structuring Plant-Associated Microbial Communities: Can we identify new anti-microbial compounds used to repel microbes?
Plant-Bacteria-Insect-Interactions: What are the mechanisms, consequences and causes of inter-kingdom communication?
Bacteria, Volatiles and Plant Defence: What is the role of plant associated microbial communities in plant defence?

Join us for this exciting research perspective starting in October 2015

Submit your application by 31. July 2015 to: gerhard.obermeyer@sbg.ac.at