

PREFACE

In March 2005 a Spring School on “Chemical ecology – from gene to ecosystem” was held in Wageningen, organized by members of the Dutch Graduate Schools *Production Ecology and Resource Conservation* and *Experimental Plant Sciences* in collaboration with Frontis – Wageningen International Nucleus for Strategic Expertise. The aim of this Spring School was to bring together scientists and PhD students who are active in the field of chemical ecology at different levels of integration.

The field of chemical ecology has rapidly expanded in the past ten years. Traditionally, chemical ecologists have been active at the individual level, but this has expanded towards both the genome level and the ecosystem level, as well as to an integrated approach from the genome to the ecosystem level. Novel developments in molecular biology provide chemical ecologists with exciting new tools that allow to address old questions in unprecedented ways. The present book reflects the ideas that were presented during the Spring School. The research systems range from aquatic to terrestrial systems, involving plants and animals.

The students who participated in the Spring School each presented their own research, which was intensively discussed with the invited speakers and other participants of the Spring School. The event was an intensive meeting with well-appreciated exchange of ideas between participants who are active at different levels of integration. It was clear from the evaluation that the discussions were valuable to all participants. This book provides many ideas for future research in chemical ecology through a multidisciplinary approach.

Each chapter of this book has been subjected to peer review. The referees who have contributed to this peer review were: Teris A. van Beek, Harro J. Bouwmeester, Marien de Bruyne, John Carlson, Nicole van Dam, Jeff A. Harvey, André Kessler, Hans Helder, Willem Jan de Kogel, Joop J.A. van Loon, John. A. Pickett, Hans M. Smid, Junji Takabayashi, Ralph Tollrian and Felix L. Wäckers. Their comments have been much appreciated and have been a great help in further improving the contributions to this book. All chapters have been reviewed by the editors of this volume as well.

The organizing committee of the Spring School consisted of the following scientists of Wageningen University and Research Centre: Teris A. van Beek, Robert J. Bogers, Harro J. Bouwmeester, Frans Griepink, Willem Jan de Kogel, Joop J.A. van Loon, Willem Takken, Claudius van den Vijver and Marcel Dicke (chair).

We would like to thank Rob Bogers and Paulien van Vredendaal for their help in the editing and lay-out process, respectively, resulting in the production of this volume.

The editors,

*Marcel Dicke
Willem Takken*

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