



Symposium "Complex chemistry and its ecological context"

How does chemical complexity contribute to biodiversity? Chemistry naturally plays a pivotal role in all hierarchical levels of biological organization. While its importance in the subcellular domain is well-acknowledged, at the ecological level its role is only recently intensely studied in the relatively new field of chemical ecology. Interactions of mutualism, symbiosis and antagonism among bacteria, fungi, plants, insects, and vertebrates can be so intricate as to obscure the complexity of their underlying chemical basis. To fully appreciate how the immense variety of structures and reactions found in nature contributes to biological diversity, the quest for molecular novelty must be driven forward by deep chemical understanding and intuition combined with penetrating biological insight. This symposium features four outstanding scientists who exemplify this chemically-motivated approach to studying various types of biological interactions, providing a timely view toward future directions for research in chemical ecology.

Program

Auditorium, Max Planck Institute for Biogeochemistry, Hans-Knöll Str. 10, Jena

Monday, June 20, 2016

- 04:00-04:45 p.m.: **Emily Balskus**, Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology, Harvard University, USA
Chemical Discovery in the Human Microbiota
- 05:00-05:45 p.m.: **Sarah O'Connor**, Biological Chemistry Department, John Innes Centre, UK
Chemistry and Biology of Plant Metabolism
- 06:00-06:30 p.m.: Commission Meeting
- 07:00 p.m.: Dinner at the "Haus im Sack" (Hochzeitszimmer)

Tuesday, June 21, 2016

- 09:00-09:45 a.m.: **Natalia Dudareva**, Department of Biochemistry, Purdue University, USA
**A Story of Supply and Demand:
Benzoic Acid Biosynthesis and Beyond**
- 10:00-10:45 a.m.: **Michiko Taga**, Plant & Microbial Biology, University of California, Berkeley, USA
Nutrient Cross-Feeding in Microbial Communities
- 11:00-11:30 a.m.: Coffee Break
- 11:30-12:30 p.m.: Commission Meeting
- 01:00 p.m.: Lunch