

Plant-provided food for carnivorous insects : protective mutualism and its applications

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Abstrak

Plants provide insects with a range of specific foods, such as nectar, pollen, and food bodies. In exchange, they may obtain various services from arthropods. The role of food rewards in the plant-pollinator mutualism has been covered broadly. This book addresses another category of food-mediated interactions, focusing on how plants use foods to recruit arthropod "bodyguards" as a protection against herbivores. "Many arthropods with primarily carnivorous lifestyles require plant-provided food as an indispensable part of their diet. Only recently have we started to appreciate the implications of non-prey food for plant-herbivore-carnivore interactions. Insight into this aspect of multitrophic interactions is not only crucial to our understanding of the evolution and functioning of plant-insect interactions in natural ecosystems, it also has direct implications for the use of food plants and food supplements in biological control programs." "This edited volume provides essential reading for all researchers interested in plant-insect interactions."--
BOOK JACKET.