

## Preface

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This special issue on Soil Chemical Ecology, the 7th in our series, follows previous ones on Allelopathy, 2000; Aquatic Chemical Ecology, 2002; Molecular Chemical Ecology, 2004; Mammalian Chemical Ecology, 2006; Olfactory Ecology, 2008; and Human Impact and Chemical Ecology, 2010. My early discussions with Roxina Soler and Nicole Van Dam morphed into a committee that also included Ted Turlings, Rensen Zeng, and Ann Hagerman. Many others provided helpful suggestions. At the ISCE meeting in Canada in August, 2011, we identified areas that would lend themselves to timely reviews. We were fortunate that essentially all invitees agreed to write. Thus, this issue contains 13 reviews and 2 contributed papers.

The review papers fall more or less into 3 categories that deal with: 1) groups of organisms - bacteria, fungi, nematodes, and soil insects; 2) phenomena that often are better understood in aboveground systems – signaling, forag-

ing, defense, resistance, multifunctional and multitrophic interactions, pheromones, as well as allelopathy; and 3) methodology. The papers are inter-related and cross-referenced in many instances. While no such compendium can be complete, the wide range of organisms and phenomena discussed is remarkable. Aside from serving as a valuable resource for chemical ecologists working in various sub-disciplines, the suggestions made by the authors for focusing future research as well as the need for an emphasis on belowground activities suggest that this is a “garden” expected to “bloom” in coming years.

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