

SEMIOCHEMICALS: THE HIDDEN LANGUAGE OF INSECTS

A poetic glimpse into the chemical communication

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No words to express their views
Insects speak by chemical cues
Derived from the Greek word Semeon
These chemicals are not well known

Leading to their distinct zones
Classified as allelochemicals and pheromones
To signal, coordinate and bond them tight
Within the same species, pheromones unite

Trail pheromones keep the colony align
By guiding ants along a straight line
Alarm pheromones spread panic and fear
Warning the colony when threats are near
With sex pheromone, attraction is clear
Mates find each other, whether far or near
Aggregation pheromones lead to the crowd
For feeding or mating, making the colonies proud

Released by one species, received by the other
Allelochemicals aid communication with one another

Signals that make the others prone
Allomone benefits the emitter alone
Kairomone guides the predator to prey
Only beneficial to the receiver coming its way
Signals aid both receiver and emitter
Synomone serves as a mutualistic transmitter
No benefit no gain to either
Antimones favour neither emitter nor receiver

Not just an interacting chemical molecule
Semiochemicals can also serve as a pest management tool
For monitoring and mass trapping orders like Lepidoptera and Diptera
Invisible whispers shape the era