

令和元年度 第3回 TBRCセミナー

Diversity and Evolution of the Behavior Manipulating *Ophiocordyceps*, the “Zombie-ant Fungi”

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The “Zombie-ant fungi” comprise one of the most intriguing and fascinating relationships between microbes and animals. They are widespread within tropical forests worldwide, with relatively few reports from temperate ecosystems. Most of these pathogens possess the ability to manipulate host behavior in order to increase their own fitness. Depending on the fungal species involved the infected ants are manipulated either to leave the nest and ascend understory shrubs, to die biting onto vegetation, or descend from the canopy to die at the base of trees. Experimental evidence has demonstrated that the behavioral change aids spore dispersal and thus increases the chances of infection, because of the existing social immunity expressed inside ant colonies that limits fungal development and transmission. Despite their undoubted importance for ecosystem functioning, these fungal pathogens are still poorly documented, especially regarding their diversity, ecology and evolutionary relationships. In this talk, I will present the most recent discoveries regarding this charismatic group of Fungi.

学生、ポスドク、教職員のみならず、どうぞお誘い合せの上ご参加ください。

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