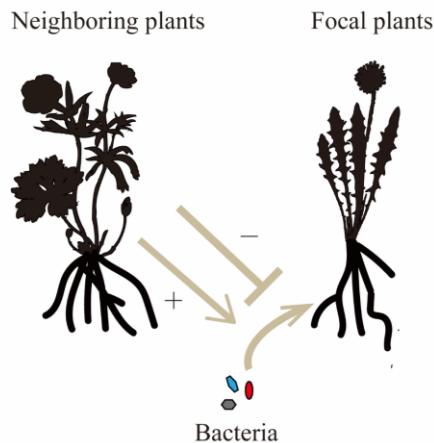


Can plants affect neighboring plants pick up bacteria?

IBL, Above-belowground Interactions Research Group

Associational effects have been demonstrated as widespread ecological interactions which are defined as reduced or increased consumer effects in a neighborhood with non-focal neighbors relative to a monoculture of the focal organism. To date, these type of associational effects has been documented in many systems for aboveground plant-herbivore interactions. But there is a dearth of experimental studies that examine such belowground associational effects and little is known about whether neighboring plants will influence plants to pick up bacteria.



Legume species: *Trifolium repens*

Jacobaea vulgaris

There are two parts in this research project. First, we will examine which bacteria can invade into *Jacobaea vulgaris* as an endophyte and what the consequence of the presence of a neighboring plant on this process (beneficial or antagonistic).

Second, we will examine the effect of *J. vulgaris* as a neighboring plant on the interaction between legume species and N-fixing bacteria.

Looking for students!

For whom?

Students with ecology and molecular biology background are welcome!

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More details in our website: <http://above-belowgroundinteractions.com/>