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Cover: Behavioral manipulation occurs when parasites adaptively control the behavior of their hosts in ways that increase parasite fitness. The host behavior becomes an extended phenotype of the parasite (see pp. 142–147). In the zombie ant system, we have snapshots of the interaction as the parasite, a fungus in this case, causes ants to lock their jaws onto leaf veins in forests. Here, a dead green tree ant (Oecophylla smaragdina) from Australia is clamped with the parasite, Ophiocordyceps, which is beginning to grow out from it to eventually reproduce. In this special issue, researchers review and opine on the neurophysiology of such control. Photo credit: David Hughes.

SPECIAL ISSUE

Neural parasitology: how parasites manipulate host behaviour

Edited by Shelley Adamo, Michael Dickinson, Joanne Webster and Janis Weeks

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