

## **What Can We Learn From Bacteria?**

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The small molecules biosynthesized by bacteria have made important contributions to the drugs we use to treat a variety of diseases and to reagents to understand biological processes. How can we find new ones? Finding and understanding new roles for bacteria in nature is one way, and some examples, all of which deal with insect-bacterial mutualisms—the interaction between the two partners where both benefit—form the basis of this talk. Beetles, ants, bees, and wasps all use mutualistic bacteria to protect their food supply, eggs, and larvae. Teasing apart these complex multilateral interactions can lead to new insights into both chemistry and biology.