Contents

Introduction 1

Chemical Communication in Nature 5

The Chemical Messages of Insects: The Molecules of Love 13

How Do Insects Perceive Love Messages? 25

Since When Have Pheromones Existed? 29

Why Do We Study Sex Pheromones? 35

Advantages of Pheromones over Insecticides 39

Chemistry of the Model Society 41

The Chemical Signals of the Benthos 55

"Trouble!" in the Language of Fish 63

How Do Fish Perceive Alarm Signals? 67

The Living Gas Analyzer 73

How Do Humans and Mammals Perceive Odors? 75

How Does the Odor Molecule Interact with the Odor Receptor? 79

Molecules and Odors 85

Why Is There Chaos in the Study of Odors? 91

The Invisible Messages of Mammals 95

Musk Glands 99

Chemical Nature of Musk 101

Fragrant Calling Cards 109

The Biological Significance of Fragrant Calling Cards 111

Musk and Demography 113

A Bit More About Musk 117

In One's Own Skin with a Foreign Scent 119

The Language of Our Ancestors 121

A Dialogue Between Two Kingdoms: "Yes" and "No" in the Language of Chemistry 127

Phytoalexins 133

Predatory Fungi and Nematodes 137

Carnivorous Plants 141

The Secret of Oak Galls 145

Chemical Weapons of Animals 149

The Deadly Weapon of Snakes 155

Which Snakes Are Venomous? 157

How Potent Is Snake Venom and How Dangerous Is It for Humans? 161

What Is Contained in Snake Venom? 165

The Venom of Living Fossils—Scorpions 173

The Chemical Weapon of Spiders 177

With a Hint of Almonds 181

The Chemical Weapon of Hymenoptera 185

What Do Hymenoptera Venoms Contain? 187

The Bombardier Beetle 191

Do Mammals Possess Chemical Weapons? 195

What Animal Venoms Can Do for Humanity 199

Conclusions 213

Glossary 217

Further Reading 221