Plant-Regulated Micro-Ecosystems: Pitchers and Leaves

Leaf surfaces are typically occupied by a variety of arthropods and microbes. In some specialized plants like carnivorous pitcher plants, the leaf is modified into a water-impounding structure that hosts a miniature aquatic ecosystem. Whether flat leaves or pitchers, plants in general have the potential to modify the environmental conditions on their leaf surfaces. I will discuss such plant-regulated abiotic factors and how they influence their symbiotic inhabitants in turn.

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