

Cover Page



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# Stellingen

## Propositions accompanying this thesis

1. *Nicrophorus vespilloides* is challenged by microbes in their environment from a very early stage in their life span (chapter 2).
2. *Nicrophorus vespilloides* offspring can acquire their endogenous microbiota indirectly via parental treatment of the carcass (pre-hatch care) (chapter 3).
3. Although *Providencia* outcompetes *Serratia*, regardless of inoculation order, *Serratia* causes larval disease if it colonizes larvae first. This explains why parents work to ensure the prior establishment of the *Nicrophorus* endogenous microbiota in larvae before possible invasion by pathogenic species (chapter 4).
4. Phoretic species evolve diverse strategies to hitchhike on their hosts. Despite this reliance they can be very harmful to their hosts (chapter 5).
5. Bacteria can be both friend and foe to organisms. We should develop sustainable and constructive strategies to coexist with them.
6. Research on insect microbiota illuminates perspectives of studies on all interactions between animals and their microbiomes.
7. “Science is a way of thinking much more than it is a body of knowledge.” Carl Sagan, 1996
8. Scientists deserve the public’s respect, because they try to perceive

the world from a new perspective, push the edge of current knowledge, and contribute to the progress of human society.

9. We should not only learn how to criticize but also to appreciate other scientist's research, both within and outside of our own fields of research.

10. Realizing your scientific potential and making grand discoveries requires patience, confidence and a willingness to fail.