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Soil invertebrate microbial interaction and its implication for soil ecosystem

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Saprophagous soil invertebrates enter in to many interactions with soil microorganisms, which result from food interaction and modification of environment by soil invertebrates. Soil microflora are important food source for soil invertebrates. And invertebrates may be very selective in feeding on various microorganisms, selection for certain microorganisms may not always agree with nutritional value for invertebrate. In gut microorganisms are selectively digested, microbial communities is affected also by modification of environment after gut passage and in excrement such as fragmentation, alkalization, depletion for available nutrients. By formation of burrows and aggregates soil invertebrates form specific environment for soil microorganisms. These effects may cumulate over time and affect microbial activity in whole soil profile.