

May Berenbaum graduated summa cum laude with a B.S. degree and honors in biology from Yale University in 1975; she received a Ph.D. in ecology and evolutionary biology from Cornell University in 1980. Since 1980, she has been a member of the faculty of the Department of Entomology at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; she has served as head of the department since 1992 and has held the endowed Swanlund Chair of Entomology since 1996. Dr. Berenbaum is known for her contributions to elucidating the chemical mediation of interactions between plant-feeding insects and their host plants, encompassing the spectrum from herbivory to pollination; her work extends from molecular genomics of detoxification to biodiversity inventory at landscape scales. Concerned with the practical application of ecological and evolutionary principles, she has examined impacts of climate change, genetic engineering, pesticide use, invasive species, and biofuel feedstock production on natural and agricultural ecosystems. Her research has produced over 280 refereed scientific publications and 35 book chapters. Among her accolades are elections as a member of the National Academy of Sciences, a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and a member of the American Philosophical Society; in 2011 she received the Tyler Prize for Environmental Achievement. In terms of service, she serves on multiple grant review panels and editorial boards and has provided leadership in a variety of scientific societies; she is a former president of the American Institute of Biological Sciences and currently serves on the Board of Directors of the American Association for the Advancement of Sciences; she is also President-Elect of the Entomological Society of America. She has chaired the National Research Council Board on Agriculture and Natural Resources and has chaired two NRC committees, the Committee on the Future Role of Pesticides in Agriculture and the Committee on the Status of Pollinators in North America. In addition to her research, she is devoted to teaching and to fostering scientific literacy; she is the recipient of the 2006 Entomological Society of America Distinguished Teaching Award and has authored numerous magazine articles, as well as six books, about insects for the general public.