

Table of contents

Introduction.....	1
1. <i>Phenotypic plasticity.....</i>	1
2. <i>Epigenetics</i>	3
3. <i>Epigenetic mechanisms.....</i>	4
3.1. <i>Non-coding RNAs</i>	4
3.2. <i>Histone post-translational modifications and histone variants.....</i>	6
3.3. <i>DNA methylation.....</i>	7
4. <i>Social Hymenoptera.....</i>	15
Objectives.....	18
Chapter 1	21
<i>DNA methylation and expression of the egfr gene are associated with worker size in monomorphic ants</i>	
Thibaut Renard, Cyril Gueydan & Serge Aron	
Chapter 2.....	31
<i>DNA methylation extends lifespan in the bumblebee <i>Bombus terrestris</i></i>	
Thibaut Renard, Baptiste Martinet, Natalia de Souza Araujo & Serge Aron	
Chapter 3.....	53
<i>Advanced paternal age affects sperm quality and colony fitness in key pollinators</i>	
Baptiste Martinet, Thibaut Renard, Morgane Boseret, Romain Libbrecht, Thomas J. Colgan, Ruddy Wattiez, Pierre Rasmont & Serge Aron	
Discussion.....	94
<i>Chapter 1.....</i>	94
<i>Chapter 2.....</i>	97
<i>Chapter 3.....</i>	101
<i>Conclusion.....</i>	104
References.....	105