

Spring School in Chemical Ecology

Theoretical and practical aspects

14–16 April 2026 | Department of Agricultural, Food and Forest Sciences (SAAF), University of Palermo

www.accademiaentomologia.it/scuole/

Overview

This short course provides PhD students with a solid introduction to chemical ecology, with a focus on pheromones and other semiochemicals used in biological control of insect pests. It emphasizes ecological interactions among plants, insects and microbes that mediate chemical communication.

Key information

- **Venue:** Viale delle Scienze, Bldg 5, Room H (SAAF – University of Palermo)
- **Language:** English
- **Designed for:** PhD students (1st–2nd year). Max 15 participants (minimum 8).
- **Registration fee:** €30.00 (lunches + refreshments during breaks included). Dinners not included.
- **Registration form:** [here available](#)
- **Accommodation:** Participants arrange and pay for their own accommodation.
- **Registration deadline:** 15 March 2026
- **Supervisors:** Stefano Colazza (UNIPA); Ezio Peri (UNIPA)
- **Speakers:** Stefano Colazza (UNIPA); Antonino Cusumano (UNIPA); Giacinto Salvatore Germinara (UNIFG); Salvatore Guarino (CNR); Ezio Peri (UNIPA)
- **Technical support:** Tuğcan Alınç (UNIPA); Marco Pistillo (UNIFG)

Program at a glance

Day 1 — Tuesday 14 April 2026

- **09:30–10:00** Welcome • tour de table
- **10:00–11:00** Introduction to Chemical Ecology (Part A): chemical communication, tri-trophic interactions
- **11:00–11:30** Coffee break
- **11:30–13:00** Introduction (Part B): devices, equipment and software for collections and behavioural assays
- **13:00–14:30** Lunch
- **14:30–16:30** Introduction to R and MetaboAnalyst for chemical ecology applications

Day 2 — Wednesday 15 April 2026

- **09:00–10:30** Workshop on VOCs (Part A): collection (traps, headspace collection)
- **10:30–11:00** Coffee break
- **11:00–13:00** Workshop on multivariate analysis of VOCs
- **13:00–14:30** Lunch
- **14:30–16:30** Workshop on VOCs (Part B): analysis, peak integration and identification

Day 3 — Thursday 16 April 2026

- **09:00–10:30** Workshop on bioassays: Y-tube olfactometer & EAD (two groups)
- **10:30–11:00** Coffee break
- **11:00–13:00** Workshop on bioassays: Y-tube olfactometer & EAD (two groups)
- **13:00–14:30** Lunch and farewell