



*PhD course in Mediterranean Agricultural, Food and Forest Systems (SAAFM)*

## **Seminar May 28<sup>th</sup> 2021**

### **ECOLOGY AND BEHAVIOUR OF OOPHAGOUS PARASITOIDS**

Oophagous parasitoids are important natural enemies of several crop pests, and have a great potential as biological control agents. In field, several egg parasitoid species can be found exploiting simultaneously the same host, and therefore understanding how interspecific interactions among parasitoids can affect pest suppression may help to improve the biological control that they exert. Ecology and behaviour of two competing parasitoids of stink bugs eggs was evaluated in field and laboratory. In particular, soybean, alfalfa and red clover were sampled during several seasons to characterize the abundance of stink bugs, to determine their egg parasitoids, and to estimate parasitoids impact. Besides, the performance of several species of egg parasitoids of pentatomid was investigated, as well as their intraspecific interactions, under laboratory conditions. Our studies provide valuable information that contributes to evaluate the compatibility of multiple natural enemies in the development of biological control programs of stink bugs.

*Relatore*

#### **Fernanda CINGOLANI**

Fernanda Cingolani is an Associate Researcher of the National Scientific and Technical Research Council of Argentina (CONICET) and a Teaching Assistant of Population Ecology at the National University of La Plata (UNLP). She is a biologist interested in the use of natural enemies as biological control agents. Her research has focused on the biology and ecology of hymenopteran and dipteran parasitoids, in particular those associated with phytophagous hemipteran pests belonging to the family Pentatomidae. Her studies have focused on analyzing pest-natural enemies' system, with particular interest in interspecific interactions among parasitoids.

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The seminar will be held on May 28<sup>th</sup> via Microsoft Teams from 3 PM to 4 PM at the following link:

[https://teams.microsoft.com/j/channel/19%3acc6d3948ca964d80aa6e07fac31b1434%40thread.tacv2/May\\_28th%2520-%2520Cingolani?groupId=d5893b88-db47-4831-a8c2-b0a3d09ae7ac&tenantId=bf17c3fc-3ccd-4f1e-8546-88fa851bad99](https://teams.microsoft.com/j/channel/19%3acc6d3948ca964d80aa6e07fac31b1434%40thread.tacv2/May_28th%2520-%2520Cingolani?groupId=d5893b88-db47-4831-a8c2-b0a3d09ae7ac&tenantId=bf17c3fc-3ccd-4f1e-8546-88fa851bad99)