

Auburn University College of Agriculture

PLANTS, INSECTS AND MICROBES SYMPOSIUM

MAY 20, 2025
AUBURN, AL

*Academic Classroom and
Laboratory Complex (ACLC)*

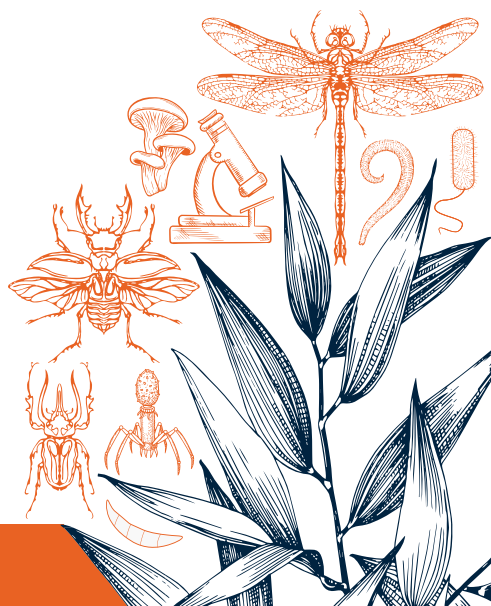
Room Information

ACLC 012: Oral Presentations
ACLC 202 & 208: Posters



AUBURN

Entomology and Plant Pathology



2025 | AGENDA

7:30-8:00 am Collect your registration badge, set up presentations, posters and grab coffee and breakfast
Judges check-in with the Symposium Planning Committee

8:00-8:10 am Welcome by Dr. Neha Potnis and Introductory remarks by Dr. David Held

8:10-8:50 am **KEYNOTE: Dr. Clare Casteel**
(ACLC012) Microbial remodeling of plant-insect interactions

Session I *Oral Presentations*
(ACLC012)

8:50-10:10 am **O-1 | Rachel M. Livingston** A novel system for virus-induced gene silencing in cotton with CLRDV
O-2 | Zimo Yang Predicting the phenology of herbivorous insects
O-3 | Amanpreet Kaur Pathogens on the prowl: Do abiotic stress-driven changes help pathogens exploit and overcome disease resistance more rapidly?
O-4 | Darmon A. Kahvazadeh What good are soldiers during peacetime? Foraging efficiency of fire ant soldiers
O-5 | Jennifer M. Standley Common floral forage found in the Southeastern United States and their biometric effects on the western honeybee
O-6 | Madelyn G. Thompson Evaluating best fall management practices of pollinator plantings in Southeastern agriculture systems
O-7 | Kyle Oswalt Transcriptomic discovery of RNAi targets for sex-specific and lethal gene silencing in the poultry pest *Alphitobius diaperinus*

10:10 -10:30 am Coffee/tea break

Session II Oral Presentations

(ACLC012)

- 10:30-11:50 am** **O-8 | Maxwell L. Cavassa** In-furrow insecticide persistence and effects on peanuts and cotton in Southeast Alabama
- O-9 | Nicholas Wagner** Method development for use of synthetic tomato xylem to study biofilm formation of the plant pathogen *Ralstonia pseudosolanacearum*
- O-10 | Ivy N. Thweatt** Exploring the role of rhizosphere microbiome in hemp plant growth and defense against two-spotted spider mites
- O-11 | Ashmita Sapkota** Optimizing gel bait toxicity for all developmental stages of American Cockroach (*Periplaneta americana*) (Blattodea: Blattellidae): The role of competitive food availability
- O-12 | Mamata K C** Xylem sap-mediated growth and biofilm formation of *Xylella fastidiosa* and its potential role in host adaptation and virulence
- O-13 | Dylan Brown** Mechanisms and management: Impact of alternating insecticide selection in *Aedes aegypti*
- O-14 | Logan Luchs** From seed to shining seedling: The soil steaming effects on spermosphere assembly and plant health

12:00-1:00 pm Lunch at The Edge Dining Hall

1:10-1:50 pm **KEYNOTE: Dr. Brock Harpur**
(ACLC012) The life and death of recessive mutations as seen through the eyes of a honeybee

Session III Oral Presentations

(ACLC012)

- 1:55 – 3:00 pm** **O-15 | Palash Ghosh** The hidden arsenal: How *Xanthomonas perforans* wields T6SS for survival and defense
- O-16 | Elijah Carroll** Stable pair coordination enables change in the order of mating behavior sequence in a termite
- O-17 | Erica Maul** How honeybees process dead mice in the nest
- O-18 | Morgan Bragg** Monitoring cotton soilborne seedling diseases through metabarcoding and shotgun metagenomics
- O-19 | Anthony W. Cuminal** Field edges as refuges: Conserving ground-nesting wasps in tilled landscapes
- O-20 | Dan Aurell** Environmental DNA as a detection approach for *Tropilaelaps* mites, invasive honeybee mites of global concern

3:00-4:00 pm Poster session I: Odd-numbered posters
(ACLC202 & 208)

4:00-5:00 pm Poster session II: Even-numbered posters
(ACLC202 & 208)

5:30-7:30 pm Awards ceremony at the Collegiate Hotel 205 S Gay St, Auburn, AL

2025 | SPONSORS

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