



# IUSSI NW European Winter Meeting 2022

## Schedule Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2022

### 09:15 - 09:45 *Arrival and Coffee*

10:00 - 10:45 Plenary: **Mark Brown**

“The contingency of research - attempts to understand the ecology of bumblebee-parasite interactions”

### 10:45 - 11:15 *Coffee and posters*

11:15 - 11:30 **Yannick Wurm, on behalf of Marian Priebe**, Queen Mary University of London

“Gene duplication facilitates the evolution of polyphenism in ants”

11:30 - 11:45 **Josie Monaghan\***, University of York

“A tale of two species (groups): Untangling hybridisation in mound-building red wood ants”

11:45 - 12:00 **Tomas Kay\***, University of Lausanne

“Social network position is tightly associated with physiology and behavior in carpenter ants”

12:00 - 12:15 **Laura Campbell\***, Durham University

“The Evolution of plant cultivation by ants”

12:15 - 12:30 **Rachael Brown\***, University of Bristol

“Investigating a body shake behaviour as a potential pathogen alarm signal in *Lasius niger*”

12:30 - 12:50 **Business meeting**

### 12:50 - 13:50 *Lunch break*

13:50 - 14:35 Plenary: **Lena Grinsted**

“Using spiders to study the evolution of group living”

14:35 - 14:50 **Linzi Jay Thompson**, University College Dublin  
“Effects of pesticides on bumblebee queens”

14:50 - 15:05 **Alicja Witwicka\***, Queen Mary University of London  
“Dose-, tissue- and pesticide-specific effects of insecticides on gene expression in *Bombus terrestris*”

15:05 - 15:20 **Jacob Podesta\***, University of York  
“North, South, East and Nest: How the bearing of artificial canopy gaps affects the distribution of an edge specialist ant in plantation forests”

15:20 - 15:35 **Flash talks** (details below)

**15:35 - 16:15 Coffee and posters**

16:15 - 16:30 **Nanna Hjort Vidkjaer**, University of Copenhagen  
“Chemical interactions between the termite fungus crop and antagonistic fungi”

16:30 - 16:45 **Quentin Willot**, Aarhus University  
“Thriving in the cold: tolerance to low temperatures and metabolic rate track distribution in ants”

16:45 – 17:00 **Tom Bishop**, Cardiff University  
“Global patterns of convergence in the ants”

17:00 - 17:15 **Christopher Pull**, University of Oxford  
“Ecology dictates the value of memory for foraging bees”

17:15 - 17:30 **Richard Gill**, Imperial College London  
“Seasonal timing of food availability influences bumblebee colony fitness”

17:30 - 17:45 **Award of student presentation prizes**

**18:00 Meeting closes**

Flash talk session order:

1. **Mahika K. Dixit\***, Imperial College London  
“Surprising consistency of insect pollinator body-size through time, despite differences in responses among life-history groups”
2. **Gabriel Hernandez\***, Queen Mary University of London  
“Multiple optima - evidence of balancing selection in the genome of the fire ant”
3. **Yonghe Zhou\***, Queen Mary University of London  
Title TBC
4. **Aoife Cantwell-Jones\***, Imperial College London  
“Mapping individuals in multi-dimensional trait space predicts shared roles in plant-bumblebee networks”
5. **Thomas Roberts-McEwen\***, University of Portsmouth  
“Superhero spiders: How group-living arachnids could be uniquely powerful biological control agents”
6. **Thomas Oliver\***, Bangor University & Rothamsted Research  
“How do you solve a problem like insect telemetry?”
7. **Ana Cuesta-Maté\***, University of Copenhagen  
“Social bee microbiomes are the missing link in the origin of human fermented foods”
8. **Hannah Wolmuth-Gordon\***, Royal Holloway University of London  
“High temperature reduces bumblebee gut parasite infectivity”
9. **Adriano Wanderlingh\***, University of Bristol  
“The effects of group size on collective disease defence in *Lasius niger*”
10. **Luke Leckie\***, University of Bristol  
“Architectural Immunity?”
11. **Daniel Schläppi**, University of Bristol  
“Do black garden ants, *Lasius niger* (Hymenoptera: Formicidae), avoid virus infected food?”

\*Student presentation