



## Speaker:

Matthew L. Buffington, PhD

USDA-ARS Systematic Entomology Laboratory

**Date:** Monday, March 2, 2026

**Time:** 4:00 pm - 4:50 pm

**Format:** In-Person Seminar & Virtual Access

**Location:** Genomics Auditorium 1102A

**Zoom:** 943 6687 2379

**Passcode:** 453393

## Title:

“From phylogenomics to cryptic species discovery: 10 years of Hymenoptera Research”

## Abstract:

The Hymenoptera are arguably the most speciose group of holometabolous insects. For over a century, this extreme diversity has posed challenges for investigating the evolution of the group, its classification, and general identification. I provide recent research on the phylogenomics of the order, and then dive deeper into my focal group, the Cynipoidea. Here we will have a look at some unexpected results, and some cool insight into this bizarre group. Next, we will cover species limits questions within some of the biocontrol concerns within Cynipoidea. Together, we will have a look at how comprehensive insect collections are used daily to address many scientific questions, and there will be time for speculation on future research concerns relating to insect taxonomy and systematics in general.

*Refreshments will be served in the Entomology Building Courtyard at 3:30pm*