UC RIVERSIDE | DEPARTMENT OF ENTOMOLOGY

ENTM250 Series Webinar

Speaker:

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Date: Monday, Jan. 11, 2021
Time: 4:00 pm - 4:50 pm
Zoom: 952-3324-4564
Passcode: 835322

Title:

Life studies on *Anagyrus callidus* (Triapitsyn, Andreason, and Perring) (Hymenoptera: Encyrtidae), parasitoid of *Maconellicoccus hirsutus* (Green)

Abstract:

The pink hibiscus mealybug (PHM), *Maconellicoccus hirsutus* (Green), is a global pest that has a broad host range and has become a major pest in California. PHM damages plants by stunting shoots, twisting stems, and deforming fruit. PHM is difficult to control due to its protected habitat within shoots and developing leaves and chemical controls are not always effective. Therefore, more effort is placed on parasitoids to control PHM infestations. The proposed research describes the biology of *Anagyrus callidus* (Triapitsyn, Andreason, and Perring)—a recently discovered parasitoid species that has a significant impact on reducing PHM populations in ornamental landscape plants and economically important agricultural crops. Because host plant species influence developmental rates of PHM, the life history was investigated on the host plant *Cucurbita moschata* variety 'black futsu.' Using this specific host plant has implications for mass rearing protocols used to produce *A. callidus*, currently being released in California. Future studies are being organized to determine life history and population growth parameters of *A. callidus* on third instar PHM nymphs. Information developed in this project will be used to efficiently rear PHM as well as *A. callidus* for the biological control of PHM.