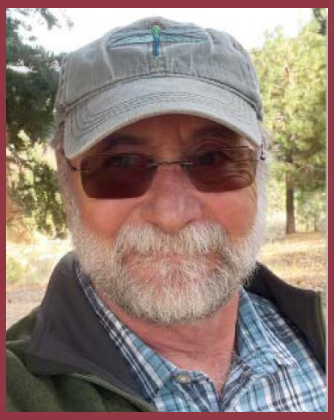
UC RIVERSIDE

DEPARTMENT OF ENTOMOLOGY
ENTM250 Seminar Series



Speaker:
Dr. John Heraty

University of California, Riverside

Date: Monday, February 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:
"Chalcidoid Wasps, Eucharitids and the Interface of Systematics and Biology"

Abstract:
Chalcidoidea (Hymenoptera) are possibly the most diverse group of insects, with over 27,000 described species and estimates of more than 500,000 that have yet to be discovered. Most of these minute wasps are parasitoids of other insects or arthropods (mites and spiders), but some are gall makers or pollinators. Recent advances in molecular methods of analysis using targeted enrichment methods have resulted in a new phylogenetic hypothesis and the recognition of 50 extant families that have a tremendous range of biologies and morphological adaptations. One group stands out – members of the planidial clade, which includes the ant-parasitic Eucharitidae. This is the only insect family that specializes in attacking the immature stages of their host ants. Eggs are laid into or on various plant hosts, and then carried back to the nest by foraging ants. Eucharitids first attack the ant larva but develop on the ant pupa. Getting out of the nest requires a different set of behaviors. The presentation will focus on the curiosities of the superfamily and family Eucharitidae and the interaction between evolutionary hypotheses and their interpretations.

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