

**Speaker:**

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Date: Monday, Jan. 03, 2022

Time: 4:00 pm - 4:50 pm

Zoom: 948 0131 1028

Passcode: 347039

Title:

“Taking the sting out of wasp control: Providing new monitoring and management options via novel mating and food-based chemical attractants”

Abstract:

Many *Vespula* (yellowjacket) species in the subfamily of Vespinae are eusocial and form colonies via a single mated queen that quickly produces female workers for nest maintenance, while males and queens emerge at the field-season's end for mating. Yellowjacket pheromones have potential use as an effective method for monitoring and controlling invasive vespine wasps but are not well-studied. Additionally, previous investigations into *Vespula penslyvanica* mating indicated that no sex pheromone for this species existed to attract males to queens. However, this research suggests that a queen sex pheromone is present in the thorax of *V. pensylvanica* and successfully attracts drones when queens are about a week old. Continued study of *V. pensylvanica* sex pheromones will focus on elucidating their chemical structure and identifying the gland(s) where they are generated.