UC RIVERSIDE

DEPARTMENT OF ENTOMOLOGY

ENTM250 Seminar Series

# Candidate for Assistant Professor of Biological Control position:

## Livia Ataide

Tropical Research and Education Center, University of Florida, Florida, U.S.

**Date:** Monday, January 30, 2023
**Time:** 4:00 pm - 4:50 pm
**Format:** In-Person Seminar & Virtual Access
**Location:** Genomics Auditorium 1102A

**Zoom:** 938 1040 4405
**Passcode:** 833289

## Title:

"Biological control of mites and insect pests in urban and agricultural settings"

## Abstract:

Many invasive mites, insects and weeds have received considerable research attention over the last decades due to the outstanding increasing rate of new introductions of alien species all over the word. These new species are known to have a catastrophic ecological and/or economic impact in most countries that they invade. The use of biological control agents such as predators, parasitoids and entomopathogens have contributed greatly to Integrated Pest Management (IPM) programs targeting those invasive pests. In this talk, I will demonstrate how I have successfully developed and coordinated interdisciplinary projects bridging entomology, acarology, ecology, chemical ecology, biological control, and molecular biology to target invasive mites and insect pests around the world. To date, I have been involved in 14 research projects, mostly multinational projects, establishing fruitful collaborations with researchers from all over the world. I am currently developing projects at the University of Florida focused on the biological control of the invasive eriophyid mites Aceria litchii (lychee erinose mite), Aculops cannabicola (hemp russet mite) and Acalitus simplex and the invasive insect Thrips parvispinus, using native and commercial predatory mites. Previously, I have worked with IPM/biocontrol of the invasive spider mite Tetranychus evansi, the invasive leafminer Tuta absoluta and the invasive nematode Meloidogyne indica in tomato, beans, cucumber, and pepper. Moreover, I have also worked with the biocontrol of important urban pests such as houseflies, sandflies and mosquitoes using phoretic/ predatory mites and entomopathogens. In parallel, I have mentored undergraduate and graduate students, coordinated courses, and engaged myself in several extension activities in the field of Entomology and Acarology. In the near future, I hope to help the University of California, Riverside to fight against its invasive pests and weeds in California using biocontrol agents in urban and agricultural settings.

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