



Speaker:

Joelene Tamm

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and cultural fire stewardship in oak woodland ecosystems.

Date: Monday, January 5, 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:

“First Occurrence of *Balcha indica* Parasitizing *Agrilus auroguttatus* in California”

Abstract:

With approximately 200,000 oaks lost to the *Agrilus auroguttatus* (goldspotted oak borer) in Southern California, identifying effective biological control agents is a critical priority. We report on the first California record of the exotic wasp, *Balcha indica* (Mani & Kaul), and the first documented host utilization of *A. auroguttatus* larvae within *Quercus agrifolia*.

This discovery stems from a collaboration between the Hoddle Lab and Heraty Lab at UC Riverside. Following the observation of a female ovipositing in an infested oak, additional specimens were reared, and DNA analysis comparison confirmed the identity of this generalist parasitoid. As a novel host-parasitoid association for the Pacific Southwest, we discuss the potential for *B. indica* to mitigate mortality across affected *Quercus* species, including *Q. agrifolia*, *Q. kelloggii*, and *Q. chrysolepis*.

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