



RIVERSIDE

DEPARTMENT OF ENTOMOLOGY
ENTM250 Seminar Series

Speaker:



Dr. Lars Laber

Postdoctoral Researcher
University of California, Riverside

Date: Monday, October 5, 2026
Time: 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm
Format: In-Person Seminar & Virtual Access
Location: Genomics Auditorium 1102A
Zoom: 997 1360 0858

Title:

“Effects of Ivermectin Across the Food Chain to Non-Nuclear Sterilization of Navel Orangeworm: Changing Research Subjects and Locations in Academia”

Abstract:

Ivermectin is a widely used anthelmintic used to treat livestock that, after treatment, is excreted via feces and can affect non-target invertebrates. Studies have shown that it can move from feces into soil and from there into plants. I have conducted several experiments to assess its effects on phytophagous, frugivorous and parasitoid insects. Navel orangeworm (*Amyelois transitella*) is a major pest on pistachios, almonds and walnuts in California. As part of an integrated pest management program, a sterile insect technique program focused on navel orangeworm is being developed and implemented in California. Since the use of a gamma-irradiator carries inherent risks, dangers and additional costs, the US government is seeking alternatives to phase out gamma irradiators all around the country. In my seminar I will talk about my career development from my master thesis in Germany to my experiences as a PostDoc working for UC Riverside at the Kearney Agricultural Research and Extension Center. I will discuss experiments related to the effects of the macrocyclic lactone ivermectin on insects on different trophic stages, my work on non-nuclear alternatives to gamma-irradiation for Sterile Insect Technique and the challenges of finding a PhD and PostDoc position, moving abroad and working in academia in general.

Refreshments will be served in the Entomology Building Courtyard at 3:00pm