

Centre for Bee Ecology, Evolution and Conservation Speaker Series presents...

Searching for sawflies in Northern North America: Systematics & biogeography of some surprisingly diverse insects with Spencer K. Monckton

Packer Lab, York University

Spencer is a PhD Candidate in the Packer Lab, who studies a different sort of vegetarian wasp: sawflies. His research is focused on revising the nearctic species of the genus *Pristiphora*, of which a number of undescribed species exist in Canada and the United States.

In fact, this genus and its relatives (subfamily Nematinae) are remarkable in that they reach their highest species diversity at mid-northern latitudes in the northern temperate and boreal regions of the northern hemisphere.

To better understand those patterns, his research involves taking a multidisciplinary approach, integrating traditional morphological taxonomy with molecular phylogenetics and biogeography. These lines of investigation are mutually informative, which he considers to be a strength of systematics research in general.

Spencer will discuss sawflies, their natural history, and their biogeography, as well as his strategies for approaching research in such a way that emphasizes the study system and not just single questions.



Friday, March 26th, 2021 11:00 am – 12:30pm

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