



Jeudi 29 février 2024, 11:00

Grande salle + visio

BRIDGING GAPS IN THE STUDY OF PARASITOID WASPS: A PERSPECTIVE FROM THE GLOBAL SOUTH

par

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- Parasitoid wasps are such a fascinating group of organisms, starting with their uncanny natural histories, but also for their unparalleled diversity and their ecological roles, which are highly regarded in human activities. These traits have been catching the attention of researchers and making parasitoids the subject of a variety of studies, but astonishingly, the proportion of them that we do not know can easily be around 95-98% in tropical regions. Worst, of those known species, only a fraction have host records.
- Without knowing the species, we cannot understand their ecological roles, their evolution, and their significance in natural and agricultural ecosystems. Even though we only know a small fraction of their species, parasitoids are already one of the most interesting groups of organisms with significant benefits in human economic activities, especially through biological control. Imagine the impact of doubling the known species: we could better understand their distribution patterns, evolution, and diversity, finding many beneficial insects along the way. This would allow for more effective interventions and applications with reduced environmental impacts, contributing to more sustainable agriculture and biodiversity conservation strategies.
- Eduardo Mitio Shimbori has been studying parasitoids since his undergraduate years, working to bridge those knowledge gaps, especially the taxonomic, and the gap between basic and applied research. He is currently a postdoc at UNAM, in Mexico City, and in this talk, he will present an overview of his career, detailing past and current projects studying ecology, systematics, and evolution of braconids, and discussing perspectives for future research.



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