

## Hemiptera Conference @ BTI in December 2014

[<http://bti.cornell.edu/about/news?id=6985>]

By Olivia Hall

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Hemiptera – an order of some 80,000 sucking insects that include aphids, cicadas, bedbugs, and many more – are the stars of an upcoming symposium at the Boyce Thompson Institute.



“What brings us all together is the unique feeding style of Hemiptera,” says co-organizer and BTI Associate Professor Georg Jander. “We have renewed focus on Aphids and other bugs that have become an important agricultural problem. There is a great body of work already about genetically engineered plants that target insects that are leaf-chewers such as caterpillars, but research on Hemiptera is a new and urgent challenge”

The first session will therefore focus on underlying mechanisms of hemipteran biology and identification of molecular targets for use in pest management, followed by a discussion of the insects’ ecological role in terrestrial food webs. The final topic will cover Hemiptera as vectors of plant viruses such as citrus greening disease, which poses a serious threat to domestic citrus production and is a research focus of co-organizer and BTI Assistant Professor Michelle Cilia.

Sponsored by the late Dr. Daljit S. Sarkaria and Dr. Elaine Sarkaria, the symposium will be held in conjunction with the Department of Entomology’s 13<sup>th</sup> annual Patton Lecture in Insect Physiology, which this year features Bryony Bonning (Iowa State University).

As the event's lead organizer, Daljit S. and Elaine Sarkaria Professor of Insect Physiology and Toxicology Angela Douglas explains, "Not only does Professor Bonning's research touch on all three topics we're addressing, but this is also a wonderful opportunity for colleagues in every career stage here on campus to interact with an international authority in this field."

2014 Patton Symposium Hemiptera Day  
Thursday, December 4, 2014, 9.30 AM to 4 PM  
Boyce Thompson Institute, auditorium

**13th Annual Patton Lecture: "Plant Virus-Aphid Vector Molecular Interactions and Associated Technologies"**

will be given by [Professor Bryony Bonning](#), Iowa State University  
Wednesday, December 3, 2014, 12.15 PM  
Department of Entomology, 2123 Comstock Hall

<http://www.angeladouglaslab.com/the-annual-patton-lecture.html>