

# CURRICULUM VITAE OF BERENICE ROMERO

Saskatoon, SK

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## EDUCATION

**Ph.D. in Plant Sciences**, University of Saskatchewan, Canada (Sep 2018 – June 2024)

Dissertation title: Host choice selection in the Aster Yellows pathosystem

Supervisor: Dr. Sean M. Prager

**Degree in Biology (Licentiate)**, University of Buenos Aires, Argentina (Mar 2011 – Dec 2017)

Dissertation title: Chemical compounds involved in plant defense against the attack of *Caliothrips phaseoli* (Thysanoptera) and *Spodoptera frugiperda* (Lepidoptera) in soybean (*Glycine max*) varieties

Supervisor: Dr. Jorge A. Zavala

## RESEARCH AND WORK EXPERIENCE

**Postdoctoral fellow**, University of Saskatchewan, Canada (Jun 2026 – Present)

- Supervised a MSc student in the execution and analysis of spatial transcriptomics to identify differences in brain gene expression between control and ethanol-exposed bees.
- Supervised an undergraduate student in the execution of behavioral assays to examine the effects of ethanol exposure during the early development on honeybee nursing behaviour.
- Conducted assays using honeybees to determine the effects of ethanol exposure on social behaviours and cognition.

**Postdoctoral researcher**, Louisiana State University, US (Oct 2024 – Nov 2025)

- Supervised a MSc student in the execution and analysis of field trials evaluating integrated management strategies - including cultural and chemical controls - for controlling aphid populations in sweetpotatoes, and in turn, virus transmission.
- Conducted genus- and species-level identification of aphids collected during the 2023 and 2024 growing seasons across multiple sites in Mississippi.
- Communicated project status and milestones in monthly collaborator and stakeholder meetings.
- Conducted laboratory and greenhouse experiments to assess the efficacy of a clay-based product in reducing aphid feeding, and in turn, transmission of plant viruses.
- Led an industry-sponsored field trial in collaboration with SIPCAM Agro USA by evaluating the efficacy of a proprietary insecticide for managing key soybean pests in southern Louisiana.

**Research technician**, University of Saskatchewan, Canada (Mar 2024 – Aug 2024)

- Designed molecular tools for detecting and quantifying different microorganisms present in soil samples.

**Teaching assistant**, University of Saskatchewan, Canada (2019 – 2023)

PLSC 492/494 (Research Thesis in Plant Sciences) (Fall 2021, Winter 2022, Fall 2022, Winter 2023)

- Provided guidance on statistical analysis across diverse datasets and supported students in thesis and scientific writing. Held office hours to provide additional support.

PLSC 214 (Statistical Methods) (Fall 2019, Winter 2020, Fall 2020, Winter 2021, Fall 2021, Winter 2022, Spring 2022, Fall 2022, Winter 2023, Spring 2023)

- Delivered instructional sessions on Excel-based statistical tools and assisted students with data analysis for assignments.

PLSC 260 (Principles of Plant Protection) (Winter 2020, Winter 2021)

- Contributed to the design and preparation of instructional materials, delivered pre-laboratory presentations, addressed student inquiries, and graded assignments and quizzes.

**Student Intern**, University of Buenos Aires, Argentina (Nov 2017 – Jan 2018)

- Measured the metabolic rate of two triatomine species (*Rhodnius prolixus* and *Triatoma infestans*) using flow-through respirometry.

## TEACHING AND MENTORING EXPERIENCE

**Guest lecturer**, University of Saskatchewan and Louisiana State University (2019 – 2025)

PLSC 450 (Applied Entomology) and ENTM 4006 (Fundamentals of Applied Entomology)

- Delivered presentations about current practices for managing insect pest populations and insect-borne plant pathogens, including examples of local pests and plant diseases

**Research mentor**, University of Saskatchewan and Louisiana State University (2019 – 2025)

- Mentored 7 undergraduate and 2 Mitacs students (University of Saskatchewan), and 1 MSc and 1 PhD student (Louisiana State University)
- Developed training materials, including Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)
- Conducted training on laboratory techniques and experimental design
- Coordinated project activities while providing sustained guidance to mentees.
- Assisted with the preparation of materials for conferences and scientific journals (i.e. oral presentations, posters, scientific manuscripts, proposals for conference symposia).

## PUBLICATIONS

\* Denotes undergraduate students mentored in research projects

- **PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES (11 published)**

Romero, B., Pérez-López, E., Wist, T., Dumonceaux, T., Prager, S. M., Davis, J. A. 2026. *Aster Yellows Integrated Management in Western Canada and the United States Upper Midwest*. *Journal of Integrated Pest Management*. <https://doi.org/10.1093/jipm/pmag001>

Romero, B., Cipriotti, P. A., Cueto, G., Dillon, F. M., and Zavala, J. A. 2026. *Integrating phytohormonal signaling and metabolic defenses: a field perspective on soybean resistance to insect pests*. *Entomologia Generalis*. <https://doi.org/10.1127/entomologia/3980>

Irvine, J.\*, Romero, B., and Prager, S. M. 2025. Effects of phytoplasma infection on aster leafhopper (*Macrosteles quadrilineatus* Forbes) (Hemiptera: Cicadellidae) settling behaviour and development on *Brassica napus*. *Entomologia Experimentalis et Applicata*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/eea.70036>

Romero, B., Hartl, T.\* and Prager, S. M. 2025. Water and nutrient stress modify aster leafhopper probing behavior in canola plants. *Arthropod-Plant Interactions*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11829-025-10189-3>

Romero, B., Entz, L.\*, Wallis, C. M., and Prager, S. M. 2025. *Effects of insect longevity and drought conditions on aster leafhopper (Hemiptera: Cicadellidae) fecundity*. *Environmental Entomology*. <https://doi.org/10.1093/ee/nvaf068>

Romero, B., Rojek, J., Wist, T. and Prager, S.M., 2024. *Characterization and correlation of the probing behaviors of *Macrosteles quadrilineatus* (Hemiptera: Cicadellidae) with electropenetrography (EPG) waveforms*. *Journal of Insect Science*, 24(2). <https://doi.org/10.1093/jisesa/ieae035>

Romero, B., Mithöfer, A., Olivier, C., Wist, T. and Prager, S.M., 2024. *The Role of Plant Defense Signaling Pathways in Phytoplasma-Infected and Uninfected Aster Leafhoppers' Oviposition, Development, and Settling Behavior*. *Journal of Chemical Ecology*, pp.1-14. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10886-024-01488-9>

Romero, B., Dumonceaux, T., Olivier, C., Wist, T. and Prager, S.M., 2023. *Development of Aster Yellows on Crop and Noncrop Species from the Canadian Prairies*. *PhytoFrontiers™*, 3(3), pp.679-687. <https://doi.org/10.1094/PHYTOFR-01-23-0008-R>

Romero, B., Olivier, C., Wist, T. and Prager, S.M., 2022. *Do options matter? Settling behavior, stylet sheath counts, and oviposition of Aster leafhoppers (Hemiptera: Cicadellidae) in two-choice bioassays.* Environmental Entomology, 51(2), pp.460-470. <https://doi.org/10.1093/ee/nvab148>

Romero, B., Olivier, C., Wist, T. and Prager, S.M., 2020. *Oviposition behavior and development of aster leafhoppers (Hemiptera: Cicadellidae) on selected host plants from the Canadian Prairies.* Journal of Economic Entomology, 113(6), pp.2695-2704. <https://doi.org/10.1093/jee/toaa243>

Romero, B., Dillon, F.M. and Zavala, J.A., 2020. *Different soybean cultivars respond differentially to damage in a herbivore-specific manner and decrease herbivore performance.* Arthropod-plant interactions, 14, pp.89-99. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11829-019-09730-y>

#### • MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION

Romero, B., Prager, S. M., Chen, J. C., Pérez de León, A. A., and Wallis, C. M. In prep. *Characterization of the complete mitogenome of aster leafhoppers (Hemiptera: Cicadellidae) from Western Canada.*

Romero, B., Rolandi, C., and Schilman, P. E. In prep. *Thermal sensitivity and metabolic cold adaptation in insects from contrasting thermal environments.*

Pusz-Bochenska, K., Romero, B. Dumonceaux, T., Gray, J. R., Andres, J. A., and Wist, T. J. In prep. *Aster leafhopper genetic diversity in the context of long-distance dispersal in Western Canada.*

Romero, B., Antochi-Crihan, G., Jewiss-Gaines, A., Morrice, S., and Prager, S. M. In prep. *Non-bee insect diversity and abundance in Canadian Prairie Ecosystems.*

Romero, B., Wist, T., and Prager, S. M. In prep. *Can phytoplasmas affect insect probing? Comparison between non-inoculative and inoculative aster leafhoppers (Hemiptera: Cicadellidae)*

#### EXTENSION ARTICLES AND REPORTS

Sulzbacher Schardong, I., Reisig, D., Romero, B., Davis, J. A. Soybean looper defoliation guide. <https://soybeans.ces.ncsu.edu/soybean-looper-defoliation-guide/>

Canola Council Research Hub - <https://www.canolacouncil.org/research-hub/investigating-the-role-of-plant-hosts-in-the-outbreaks-of-the-aster-leafhopper-vectored-aster-yellows/>

Canola Council Research Hub - <https://www.canolacouncil.org/research-hub/the-role-of-insect-feeding-and-plant-defense-responses-in-aster-yellows-disease-epidemiology/>

Romero, B., Wist, T., Olivier, C., and Prager, S. M. Symptom expression of Aster Yellows in selected crop and noncrops species commonly found in Saskatchewan. Western Committee on Crop Pests Annual Meeting. Grande Prairie, Alberta. October 26-28, 2022.

Romero, B., Wist, T., Olivier, C., and Prager, S. M. Development and host choice selection behavior of Aster leafhoppers in crop and noncrop species from the Canadian Prairies. Western Committee on Crop Pests Annual Meeting. October 28-29, 2021.

Romero, B., Wist, T., Olivier, C., and Prager, S. M. Examining crop and non-crop species from the Canadian Prairies as reproductive and food hosts for aster leafhoppers. Western Committee on Crop Pests Annual Meeting. October 29-30, 2020.

#### POPULAR PRESS

Article in Top Crop Manager by Jennifer Bogdan. Aster Leafhopper Host Plant Selection on the Prairies - Research identifies some of the plant species involved in leafhopper-aster yellows-crop disease system. <https://www.topcropmanager.com/aster-leafhopper-host-plant-selection-on-the-prairies/>

Canola Watch Podcast episode about aster leafhoppers with Drs. Sean Prager and Tyler Wist. <https://soundcloud.com/whetterj/ep76-aster-yellows-phytoplasma>

Interview with CBC Radio on April 3, 2024 – Cicadas emergence in the US - <https://www.cbc.ca/listen/live-radio/1-103-the-afternoon-edition-sask/clip/16053557-a-cicadas-species-set-flood-u.s.-midwest-sask>

Article in DiscoverWeyburn.com about cicada emergence in the US - <https://discoverweyburn.com/articles/southeast-sask-has-cicadas-too-but-theyre-not-like-the-us-ones>

Episode 98 of the Lil Dude's Insect Academy – Insect, Plant, Pathogen Interaction! - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_GauVWI5SxI&list=PLGospF\\_lfOwxtzuK0dJ7yzq-ByyaBYyGZ&index=2](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_GauVWI5SxI&list=PLGospF_lfOwxtzuK0dJ7yzq-ByyaBYyGZ&index=2)

## REVIEWER FOR INTERNATIONAL JOURNALS

(Number of manuscripts reviewed in each journal)

Canadian Journal of Plant Science (1), Plos ONE (1), Journal of Insect Science (4), Arthropod-Plant Interactions (1), Journal of Economic Entomology (15), The Canadian Entomologist (1), Annals of the Entomological Society of America (1), Insect Science (3), Environmental Entomology (4), Plant Health Cases (1), Pest Management Science (1), Plant Disease (1), Acta Zoológica Mexicana (1), Entomologia Experimentalis et Applicata (1), Journal of the Saudi Society of Agricultural Sciences (1), Annals of Botany (1), Frontiers in Plant Science (1), Journal of Integrated Pest Management (1)

## EDITORIAL ACTIVITY

Editorial Board Member, Écoscience (April 2026 – Present)

Editorial Board Member – Assistant Editor, International Journal of Pest Management (April 2026 – Present)

Graduate Student Advisor and Editor (Natural Sciences section), University of Saskatchewan Undergraduate Research Journal (USURJ) (September 2023 – April 2024)

## PRESENTATIONS

\* Denotes undergraduate and graduate students mentored in research projects

### • INVITED TALKS AND SEMINARS

Romero, B., and Prager, S. M. *Behaviour and development of aster leafhoppers in Western Canada*. Symposium at the Entomological Society of America's 2026 Meeting. Columbus, Ohio. November 8-11, 2026.

Romero, B., and Prager, S. M. *Identifying factors influencing the dynamics of a phytoplasma disease in Western Canada*. Symposium at the Entomological Society of America's 2025 Meeting. Portland, Oregon. November 9-12, 2025.

Romero, B. *Impacts of abiotic stresses on aster leafhopper biology*. Part of LeafHope seminar series organized by Laval University. Online. October 30, 2025.

Panelist of the Entomological Society of America's Webinar on "Time management Strategies for Entomologists". Online. June 12, 2024

Romero, B. *CleanSEED overview and preliminary data*. 88<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Louisiana Sweet Potato Association. Winnsboro, Louisiana. December 5, 2024.

Romero, B., Dumonceaux, T., Rojek, J., Wist, T., and Prager, S. M. *Unraveling the host range and behavior of aster leafhoppers in Western Canada*. Symposium at the Entomological Society of America Annual Meeting. Phoenix, Arizona. November 10-13, 2024.

Romero, B., Fischer, F.\*, Cooper, W. R., and Prager, S. M. *Unraveling the host range of aster leafhoppers in Western Canada: Behavioral assays, gut content analysis (GCA), and electropenetrography (EPG)*. Symposium at the Entomological Society of America's 2024 Pacific Branch Meeting. Waikoloa Beach, Hawaii. April 14-17, 2024. Virtual attendance.

Romero, B., Mithöfer, A., Olivier, C., Wist, T., and Prager, S. M. *Examining the relationship between plant defense responses and the behavior of an insect vector*. VII Congress of the Latin American Association of Chemical Ecology. Buenos Aires, Argentina. December 4-7, 2023.

Romero, B., Dumonceaux, T., Rojek, J., Olivier, C., Wist, T., and Prager, S. M. *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Prairies: Host Plant Use in a Phytoplasma Vector*. Rising Stars of Entomology Symposium, at the Entomological Society of America Annual Meeting. National Harbor, Maryland. November 5-8, 2023.

Zafar, M. and Romero, B. University of Saskatchewan Undergraduate Research Journal (USURJ). University of Saskatchewan. Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. November 31, 2023.

Romero, B., Dumonceaux, T., Rojek, J., Olivier, C., Wist, T., and Prager, S. M. *Host plant use in a phytoplasma vector*. Graduate Student Showcase (GSS) Symposium at the Entomological Society of Canada Annual Meeting. Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. October 15-18, 2023.

Romero, B., Fischer, F.\*, Wist, T., and Prager, S. M. *Combining field surveys with molecular gut content analysis of insect samples to identify potential hosts involved in a vector-borne plant pathosystem*. Entomological Society of Canada Annual Meeting. Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. October 15-18, 2023.

Romero, B. and Prager, S. M. *Uso de hospederos vegetales por un insecto vector de fitoplasmas en las Praderas Canadienses*. Instituto de Investigaciones en Biociencias Agrícolas y Ambientales (INBA, Argentina) Seminar. July 3, 2023. Virtual meeting. <https://rb.gy/jqlyp>

Romero, B. and Prager, S. M. *Patterns of Host Plant Use in a Phytoplasma Vector*. Symposium at the Entomological Society of America's 2023 Pacific Branch Meeting. Seattle, Washington. April 2-5, 2023.

Romero, B. *Entomology research in USask AgBio*. Saskatchewan Insect Management Committee Meeting. Virtual meeting. December 15, 2022.

Romero, B., and Prager, S. M. *Understanding of factors mediating aster leafhoppers' settling, probing, and oviposition behaviors*. Saskatchewan Insect Management Committee Meeting. Virtual meeting. December 15, 2022.

Romero, B., and Prager, S. M. *Using laboratory assays to examine host choice selection behavior in insects*. Entomological Societies of America, Canada, and British Columbia Joint Annual Meeting. Vancouver, British Columbia. November 13-16, 2022.

Romero, B., Olivier, C., Wist, T., and Prager, S. M. *Aster Yellows: symptom expression and disease reservoirs*. Soils and Crops 2022. Virtual meeting. March 8-9, 2022.

#### • CONTRIBUTED TALKS

De la Mora, A., Janser, M., Obstha, O., Raza, M. F., Jose, M. S., Kondratiuk, S., Perez-Ibarra, H. E., Morfin, N., Kemper, M., Tregobov, J., Lopes Neto, B., Silva da Bezerra, M. C., Edirithilake, T. L. K., Bilton, B., Romero, B., Arias Marmolejo, J. P., Moshynskyy, I., Simko, E., Wood, S. C. *Increased colony strength and antibiotic use contribute to good outcomes in blueberry pollination*. 2027 Canadian National Pollination Symposium and Tradeshow. Quebec, January 29-30, 2027.

Jose, M. S., Merkl, R., Wickramasinghe, Y., Janser, M., Bezerra da Silva, M. C., Obshta, O., Camilli, M. P., Tellarini Prieto, E. E., Edirithilake, T., Lopes Neto, B. E., De la Mora, A., Kondratiuk, S., Katrii, V., Tregobov, J., Romero, B., Webb, J., Bilton, B., Arias Marmolejo, J. P., Moshynskyy, I., Simko, E., Wood, S. C.

*Investigation of Melissococcus plutonius persistence in beekeeping equipment and implications for disease control through decontamination.* 2027 Canadian National Pollination Symposium and Tradeshow. Quebec, January 29-30, 2027.

Bilton, B., Lopes Neto, Romero, B., De la Mora, A., Jose, M. S., Kondratiuk, S., Bezerra da Silva, M. S., Tregobov, J., Obshta, O., Katrii, V., Wickramasinghe, Y., Webb, J., Arias Marmolejo, J. P., Merkl, R., Moshynskyy, I., Chicoine, A., Simko, E., Wood, S. C. *Evaluating the Safety and Efficacy of Fenbendazole as a Treatment for Nosema Disease in Saskatchewan Honey Bees.* Entomological Society of Canada Annual Meeting. Winnipeg, Manitoba. October 4-7, 2026.

Pablo, R. \*, Romero, B., Gregorie, C., Power, I., Davis, J. A. *Disrupting Aphid Landing Behavior to Reduce Potyvirus Transmission in Sweetpotato.* 2026 National Sweetpotato Collaborators Group Annual Meeting. Fort Worth, Texas. January 16-17, 2026.

Romero, B., Davis, J. A. *Effects of kaolin clay on the probing behavior of Aphis gossypii Glover (Hemiptera: Aphididae).* Entomological Society of America's 2025 Southeastern Branch Meeting. Baton Rouge, Louisiana. March 9-12, 2025.

Pablo, R. \*, Romero, B., Davis, J. A. *Integrated Pest Management of Potyviruses: Evaluating the Effects of Border Crops and Alternative Controls in Sweetpotato Fields.* Entomological Society of America's 2025 Southeastern Branch Meeting. Baton Rouge, Louisiana. March 9-12, 2025.

Romero, B., Rojek, J., Wist, T., and Prager, S. M. *Characterization and correlation of the probing behaviors of Macrosteles quadrilineatus (Hemiptera: Cicadellidae) with EPG waveforms.* 2024 International Electropenetrography (EPG) Conference. Lake Alfred, Florida. January 30-February 2, 2024.

Entz, L. \*, Romero, B., Wallis, C., and Prager, S. M. *Effects of insect longevity and drought conditions on realized and potential fecundity of aster leafhoppers (Hemiptera: Cicadellidae).* Entomological Society of America Annual Meeting. National Harbor, Maryland. November 5-8, 2023.

Irvine, J. \*, Romero, B., and Prager, S. M. *Effects of phytoplasma infection on aster leafhopper (Macrosteles quadrilineatus Forbes) (Hemiptera: Cicadellidae) settling behaviour, oviposition, and development.* Entomological Society of Canada Annual Meeting. Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. October 15-18, 2023.

Romero, B., Rojek, J., Olivier, C., Wist, T., and Prager, S. M. *Characterization of the feeding behavior of uninfected and phytoplasma-infected aster leafhoppers on selected host plants.* Entomological Society of America's 2023 Pacific Branch Meeting. Seattle, Washington. April 2-5, 2023.

Irvine, J. \*, Romero, B., and Prager, S. *Plant pathogen effects on hemipteran probing activity.* Student Undergraduate Research Experience Summer (SURE) 2022 Symposium, University of Saskatchewan. Virtual attendance. August 22-31, 2022.

Romero, B., Olivier, C., Wist, T., and Prager, S. M. *A tale of leafhoppers, Aster Yellows, and crops in the Canadian Prairies.* XXVI International Congress of Entomology (ICE), Helsinki, Finland. July 17-22, 2022.

Romero, B., Olivier, C., Wist, T., and Prager, S. M. *The role of phytohormones in Aster leafhopper oviposition, development and settling behavior.* Entomological Society of America's 2022 Pacific Branch Meeting. Virtual attendance. April 10-13, 2022.

Romero, B., Olivier, C., Wist, T., and Prager, S. M. *Aster Yellows: insights into aster leafhoppers' development and host preferences in the Canadian Prairies.* 37th Plant Sciences Graduate Students Symposium. Virtual meeting. March 4-5, 2022.

Romero, B., Olivier, C., Wist, T., and Prager, S. M. *What no-choice and two-bioassays can tell us about Aster leafhoppers' host choice selection behavior.* Entomological Society of Saskatchewan Fall Meeting. Virtual meeting. December 3, 2021.

Romero, B., Olivier, C., Wist, T., and Prager, S. M. *One or too many choices? Oviposition, development, and settling of Aster leafhoppers on a variety of plant hosts*. Entomological Society of Canada/Entomological Society of Ontario 2021 JAM. Virtual meeting. November 15-18, 2021.

Romero, B., Olivier, C., Wist, T., and Prager, S. M. *One or too many choices? Oviposition, development, and settling of Aster leafhoppers on a variety of plant hosts*. 1st International Electronic Conference of Entomology (IECE). Virtual meeting. July 1-15, 2021. – **Withdrawn**

Romero, B., Olivier, C., Wist, T., and Prager, S. M. *Do's and don'ts in the Canadian Prairies: a study about oviposition and host choice selection behavior of Aster leafhoppers*. Fall Meeting of the Entomological Society of Saskatchewan. Virtual Meeting. November 20, 2020.

Romero, B., Olivier, C., Wist, T., and Prager, S. M. *Evaluating aster leafhopper performance and preference on a variety of crop and non-crop host plants*. Entomological Society of British Columbia Annual General Meeting and Symposium. Virtual meeting. October 26-28, 2020.

Romero, B., Wist, T., Olivier, C., and Prager, S. M. *Aster Yellows: insights into Aster leafhoppers' behavior and development in the Canadian Prairies*. 36th Annual Plant Sciences Graduate Students' Symposium, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. March 14-15, 2020. **This event was cancelled due to the global coronavirus situation.**

Romero, B., Wist, T., Olivier, C., and Prager, S. M. *Aster Yellows: effects of phytoplasmas on Aster leafhoppers' development and preference*. Soils and Crops 2020, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. March 10, 2020.

Romero, B. and Prager, S. M. *Of leafhoppers and phytoplasmas: host-choice behaviour of Macrosteles quadrilineatus in the Canadian Prairies*. 2019 Joint Annual Meeting of the Entomological Societies of Saskatchewan and Alberta. Elkwater, Alberta. October 3-5 5, 2019

Romero, B. and Prager, S. M. *Host-preference and performance in a plant pathosystem*. Entomological Society of Canada, CSEE, and AES 2019 Joint Meeting. Fredericton, New Brunswick. August 18-21, 2019.

#### • POSTERS

Irvine, J.\*, Romero, B., and Prager, S. *Love triangle? Brassica napus, Aster Yellows, and aster leafhoppers (Hemiptera: Cicadellidae)*. Entomological Society of America Annual Meeting. In-person attendance. Phoenix, Arizona. November 10-13, 2024.

Irvine, J.\*, Romero, B., and Prager, S. *Plant pathogen effects on hemipteran probing activity*. Entomological Societies of America, Canada, and British Columbia Joint Annual Meeting. In-person attendance. Vancouver, British Columbia. November 13-16, 2022.

Romero, B., Olivier, C., Wist, T., and Prager, S. *Phytohormones and their effects on aster leafhopper behavioral responses*. Entomological Societies of America, Canada, and British Columbia Joint Annual Meeting. In-person attendance. Vancouver, British Columbia. November 13-16, 2022.

Irvine, J.\*, Romero, B., and Prager, S. *Plant Pathogen Effects on Hemipteran Settling Behavior*. AgBio Student Research Day, University of Saskatchewan. September 7, 2022.

Romero, B., Olivier, C., Wist, T., and Prager, S. *Phytohormones and their effects on aster leafhopper behavioral responses*. AgBio Student Research Day, University of Saskatchewan. September 7, 2022.

Fischer, F.\*, Romero, B., Cooper, R., and Prager, S. *Feasibility of gut content analysis and the identification of plant DNA from Aster Leafhoppers, Macrosteles quadrilineatus (Forbes) (Hemiptera: Cicadellidae)*. Entomological Society of America's 2022 Pacific Branch Meeting. Virtual attendance. April 10-13, 2022.

Rosso, B. E., Medina, V., Romero, B., Soria, M., and Zavala, J. A. *Entomopathogen infection alters feeding behavior in the southern green stinkbug, Nezara viridula*. Animal Behaviour Live. Virtual attendance. August 20-21, 2020.

Romero, B., Rolandi, C., and Schilman, P. E. Temperature dependence of standard metabolic rate in a temperate and a tropical species of triatomines. 10<sup>o</sup> Meeting of the Entomological Society of Argentina (SEA). School of Agriculture, Chacras de Coria, Luján de Cuyo, Mendoza. May 21-24, 2018.

Romero, B., Zavala, J. A. *Tell me who you are and I will tell you what to eat: development of thrips and lepidopteran larvae on soybean plants*. 10<sup>o</sup> Meeting of the Entomological Society of Argentina (SEA). School of Agriculture, Chacras de Coria, Luján de Cuyo, Mendoza. May 21-24, 2018.

Romero, B., Dillon, F. M., and Zavala, J. A. *Chemical composition of soybean leaves affects behaviour and reproductive capacity of thrips (Caliothrips phaseoli)*. 1<sup>o</sup> Meeting of Behavioural Biology of the Cono Sur Region. COMPORTA 2017 - VI JUCA. Faculty of Exact and Natural Sciences, University of Buenos Aires. August 2 to August 4, 2017.

## FUNDING

\* Approximate value in US dollars.

Contributed to the preparation of successful Canola Agronomic Research Program (CARP) grant (\$247,000 CAD/185,000 US; 2021-2024).

## HONORS AND AWARDS

\*Approximate value in US dollars

|                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Fall 2023 - Entomological Society of Saskatchewan's Entomological Activity Award                                                                                                    | \$ 375 CAD / 280 US*               |
| Fall 2023 - University of Saskatchewan Student Travel Award                                                                                                                         | \$ 450 CAD / 337 US*               |
| 2023 University of Saskatchewan – Education Enhancement Grant                                                                                                                       | \$500 CAD / 375 US*                |
| 2023 Graduate Student Showcase (GSS) - Entomological Society of Canada                                                                                                              | \$200 CAD / 150 US*                |
| 2023/2024 SaskCanola Dr. Roger Rimmer Award for Excellence in Research                                                                                                              | \$18,000 CAD / 13400 US*           |
| 2023/2024 Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission Graduate Scholarship                                                                                                            | \$30,000 CAD/ 22400 US*            |
| 2023 Rising Stars of Entomology – Entomological Society of America                                                                                                                  | \$ 401 CAD/ 301 US                 |
| 2023 Pacific Branch of the Entomological Society of America Travel Award                                                                                                            | \$ 800 CAD / 600 US                |
| 2022 Entomological Society of Canada's Postgraduate (PhD) Scholarship                                                                                                               | \$2000 CAD / 1500 US*              |
| 2022 Entomological Society of Canada Ed Becker JAM Participation Award                                                                                                              | \$500 CAD / 375 US*                |
| 2022/2023 SaskCanola Dr. Roger Rimmer Award for Excellence in Research                                                                                                              | \$18,000 CAD/ 13400 US*            |
| 2022/2023 Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission Graduate Scholarship                                                                                                            | \$30,000 CAD / 22400 US*           |
| Summer 2022 - University of Saskatchewan Student Travel Award                                                                                                                       | \$550 CAD / 410 US*                |
| Summer 2022 - Entomological Society of Saskatchewan's Entomological Activity Award                                                                                                  | \$750 CAD / 560 US*                |
| Student presentation award in the 'Physiology, pathology, and pest management' category of the 37 <sup>th</sup> Plant Sciences Graduate Students' Symposium (2 <sup>nd</sup> place) | \$250 CAD / 180 US*                |
| Best Student Presentation at the 2021 Entomological Society of Saskatchewan Fall Meeting                                                                                            | \$100 CAD/ 75 US*                  |
| 2021/2022 Western Grains Research Foundation Endowment Fund Graduate Scholarship                                                                                                    | \$4,840 CAD / 3600 US*             |
| 2021/2022 Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission Graduate Scholarship                                                                                                            | \$30,000 CAD / 22400 US*           |
| 2020 PhD Outstanding Student Award – Awarded by the Department of Plant Sciences (University of Saskatchewan)                                                                       |                                    |
| 2020 Brooks Scholarship – Awarded by the Entomological Society of Saskatchewan                                                                                                      | \$500 CAD / 375 US*                |
| 2020/2021 PhD Graduate Student Stipend                                                                                                                                              | \$10,500 CAD / 7800 US*            |
| 2020/2021 Western Grains Research Foundation Endowment Fund Graduate Scholarship                                                                                                    | \$25,000 CAD / 18700 US*           |
| 2019/2020 Plant Sciences Devolved Scholarship                                                                                                                                       | \$10,500 CAD / 7800 US*            |
| 2019/2020 Western Grains Research Foundation Endowment Fund Graduate Scholarship                                                                                                    | \$25,000 CAD/ 18700 US             |
| Fall 2019 ESL Bursary for the "Graduate Writing" course                                                                                                                             | Declined                           |
| Winter 2019 ESL Bursary for the "Advanced Spoken English" course                                                                                                                    |                                    |
| Fall 2018 ESL Bursary for the "Advanced Writing & Applied Grammar" course                                                                                                           |                                    |
| <b>Total</b>                                                                                                                                                                        | <b>\$209,216 CAD / 156,722 US*</b> |

## ACADEMIC SERVICE, VOLUNTEERING, AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- **Director-at-large of the Entomological Society of Canada's Student and Early Professional Affairs Committee (Nov 2024 – present)**
- **Co-Chair of the Entomological Society of Canada's Student and Early Professional Affairs Committee (Nov 2023 – present)**
- Director of Social Media for the Entomological Society of Canada's Student and Early Professional Affairs Committee (Jan 2022 – Nov 2023)
- Member of the Entomological Society of Canada's Communications Committee (2021 – 2023) and the Student and Early Professional Affairs Committee (2019 - present)
- Co-organizer of Section symposium ("Conversations Between Entomologists and Plant Pathologists: Joining Forces to Control Pathogens") for the Entomological Society of America's meeting Entomology 2025 (Nov 2025, Portland, OR)
- Co-organizer of Member symposium ("Passionate About Pathogens: Bridging the Divide Between Mammal and Plant Disease Vectors") for the Entomological Society of America's meeting Entomology 2025 (Nov 2025, Portland, OR)
- Co-organizer of round table ("From egg to adult – A discussion about careers in entomology") for the Entomological Society of Canada's meeting (Oct 2025, Calgary, Alberta)
- Co-organizer of Member symposium ("Leafhoppers in North America") for the Entomological Society of America's meeting Entomology 2024 (Nov 2024, Phoenix, AZ)
- Co-organizer of Section symposium ("Cross-disciplinary Innovations in EPG Science to Address Current and Emerging Issues") for the Entomological Society of America's meeting Entomology 2024 (Nov 2024, Phoenix, AZ)
- Organizer of the student social for the Entomological Society of Canada's meeting (October 2023, Saskatoon, SK)
- Moderated sessions, judged student presentations, and assisted with the organization of national and international entomological society annual meetings (Entomological Society of America's 2025 Southeastern Branch meeting; Entomological Society of America's 2023 Pacific Branch meeting; Entomological Societies of America, Canada, and British Columbia Joint Annual Meeting in 2022; Entomological Society of Saskatchewan-Entomological Society of Alberta Joint Meeting in 2019; Entomological Society of Canada's Annual Meeting in 2019)
- Judged student presentations at the 2022 Student Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE) Symposium (Aug 2022, Saskatoon, SK)
- Facilitated engaging Q&A sessions and developed a workshop for events such as the Insect Management Stand at Canola Palooza (July 2019, Saskatoon, SK), Ag in Motion (July 2023, Saskatoon, SK), Agriculture in the Classroom Saskatchewan (May 2022 and 2023, Saskatoon, SK), and LSU AgMagic (March 2025, Baton Rouge, Louisiana).
- Designed extension materials to be distributed to crop producers, extension agents and members of industry at workshops and trade shows.
- Delivered presentations and facilitated Q&A sessions with classrooms and scout groups participating in "Skype a Scientist" (Winter 2020, Winter 2021, Fall 2023)
- Co-organizer of Annual Online Conference 'Animal Behaviour Live' (Jul – Nov 2021)
- Co-organizer of Arthropoda seminar series (Oct 2020 – Dec 2021)
- President of the Plant Sciences Graduate Students' Association (Fall 2019, Winter 2020, Department of Plant Sciences, University of Saskatchewan)
- Peer Mentor with Student Learning Services at the University of Saskatchewan (Fall 2019, Winter 2020, Fall 2020)
- Delivered a presentation to middle school children as part of outreach activities organized by the Entomological Society of Saskatchewan (March 2019, Saskatoon, SK).

- Judged student presentations at the First Year Research Experience (FYRE) for AGRC 111 course (Dec 2018, Saskatoon, SK)

## **COURSES AND CERTIFICATIONS**

- Electropenetrography (EPG) Online Workshop - University of Florida (July 26, 2023)
- CPR/First Aid Course (Febr 2019, Recertification in Jan 2022)
- Mental Health First Aid Basic, 12-hour course (Dec 2019)
- SafeTalk Workshop: Suicide Alertness for Everyone (Nov 2019)
- Biology of Vector-Borne Diseases (BVBD) training course (Jun 2019, University of Idaho, US)

## **LANGUAGES**

Fully fluent in English and Spanish, intermediate knowledge of German (B1-B2)

## **MEMBERSHIPS**

- Entomological Society of Saskatchewan (2018-2023)
- Entomological Society of Canada (2019 - Present)
- Entomological Society of America (2021 - Present)
- Canadian Association of Professional Apiculturists (2026 – Present)

## **REFERENCES**

Available upon request