

Newsletter

May 2024

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

BPRI Integrated Lab Meeting:

- **May 02, 2024 – Seema Rana** (Post-doc @ TAMU)
- **May 09, 2024 – Neema John** (PhD Student @ ASU)
- **May 16, 2024 – Maeva Techer** (Post-doc @ TAMU)
- **Annual Report due for June 2024**

May 28-31 PIs Retreat (Galveston, Texas)

For those planning on presenting at EntSoc this year abstracts are due **May 31, 2024**

The GLI is looking to hear from **trainees in the form of video clips** highlighting their research. Please reach out to Mira (miraries@asu.edu) for questions

RESEARCH MILESTONES

Song Lab: Vivian Santana Peralta passed her PhD candidacy exam last month with flying colors!

Cease Lab: Mehreen Tahir has been awarded an Outstanding Research Award by ASU's GPSA. She has also been awarded an Orthoptera's Society's Theodore J. Cohn research grant which will support her to add an NMR analysis to quantify hemolymph metabolites. **Tamir Lichaa** (FIST scholar) working with Mehreen has presented the work titled "Understanding the effects of macronutrient balance on susceptibility of Desert Locusts, *Schistocerca gregaria*, to *Metarhizium robertsii* fungal infection" at School of Life Sciences undergraduate student symposia.

LAB ACTIVITIES AND OUTREACH

Presenting Research

Joe Antwi (SIUE) presented his research at the SIUE Graduate School Spring Research Symposium & Midwest Ecology and Evolution Conference



BIOLOGY PODCAST

Rick Overson and Mira Ries were guests on ASU's 'Ask a Biologist Podcast'. [Listen to it now.](#) More information about the episode can be found [here.](#)



HOT WING CHALLENGE

The Texas A&M BPRI labs had a hot wing challenge social



HOSTING A BPRI MEMBER

The TAMU BPRI team hosted David Bellini (BCM) for the day to learn about locust behavioural research. He will do his lab swap at TAMU.



CONFERENCES & SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES

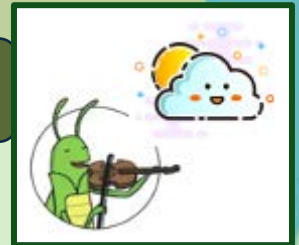
Spence Behmer & Chris Brennan will participate in the upcoming **Bonn Nutrition Meeting**, from **May 5-8** in **Bonn, Germany**

Barani Raman, Arianne Cease, Rick Overson, Spence Behmer, Hojun Song, Gregory Sword, and Maeva Techer will participate in the upcoming **Theo Murphy meeting**, "Locust and bee plasticity in a changing world", sponsored by the Royal Society from **May 20-21** in **Cambridge, UK**.

Richard Dewell will attend the **International Congress of Neuroethology** conference from **July 28- August 2** in **Berlin, Germany**

Anna Childers, Vivian Peralta, and Maeva Techer will participate at the **International Conference of Entomology** from **August 25-30** in **Kyoto, Japan**

Grasshopper Forecast



CROWDED COLONIES:

S. americana, *S. piceifrons* and *S. serialis cubense* are thriving within the crowded colonies at TAMU. A few tweaks in feeding, egg cup collection and cage refreshing frequency have boosted the size of our colonies. Who knew that Central Locusts prefer a clean and fresh cage before starting to lay their egg? (thanks Chris Brennan for his field observations!).

S. gregaria (WT) colonies are recovering after intensive use in many BPRI experiments including those related to RNAi and behavior (TAMU), microbiome depletion (TAMU), olfactory stimulus (WashU), single cell transcriptome (BCM).



Thanks to all the people keeping the colonies going

We still do not have *S. cancellata* and lost our *S. nitens* colony. However, Hojun is working with Argentinian authorities and colleagues to get the permit accepted to ship specimens from their established colonies. The TAMU team is will travel to Austin/San Antonio region in May to recollect nitens breeding adults.

ISOLATED LINES:

S. gregaria (F1 and F2), *S. americana* (F1 only) and *S. piceifrons* (F1 only) are all be reared in isolated cages with multiple shelves per species. Isolated adults *S. americana* have been sent to WashU and other species are used by PhD students and postdocs locally (RNAi, nutrition, time-course transcriptomes).

