



# Guest Lecture

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Host: Univ.-Prof. Dipl.-Biol. Dr. Stefan Dötterl



## Anosmia in the microcosm - when aliens can no longer smell

Insecticides are widely used across the globe for plant protection, but they can also harm beneficial non-target organisms. Beyond their lethal effects, insecticides may also cause more subtle, sublethal impacts. Parasitoid wasps play a crucial role in ecosystems as natural enemies of other arthropods. We examined the sublethal effects of four insecticides that target cholinergic neurons in the insect nervous system on mate and host finding of three parasitoid wasp species. Our findings suggest that sublethal doses of the insecticides impair the olfactory abilities of parasitoid wasps. Since the sense of smell is essential for the ecosystem services these wasps provide, it is likely that sublethal insecticide exposure negatively affects their important role as biocontrol agents.

Vortragssprache: Englisch

Friday, April 11, 2 PM

NLW-Faculty, Room 435, 3rd floor

