



# Seminar Series

## Winter 2025

(Alex 265)

Online

Thursday,

February 13

12 noon

## Dr. Alvaro De la Mora

Honey Bee Health Research lab, University of Saskatchewan

Resistance mechanisms and microbiome changes of honey bees selected for low *Varroa* population growth against *Varroa destructor*



Alvaro De la Mora has a Ph.D from the Honey Bee Research Centre here at the School of Environmental Sciences. He currently is a postdoctoral fellow at **the Honey Bee Health Research lab**, at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVM), University of Saskatchewan, Canada.

The parasitic mite *Varroa destructor* is the main stressor associated with colony losses of honey bees. Bees can be bred for *Varroa*-resistance, which was done in this project through three generations of selection for low (resistant) and high (susceptible) *Varroa* population growth (LVG and HVG, respectively). Colony health was improved based on overwinter colony mortality, higher immune responses, and changes in the bee microbiome.