



Mardi 3 avril 2018, 11:00

Salle de réunion

ATTACK OF THE CLONES: INTRODUCTION OF THE WILLOW SAWFLY IN AUSTRALIA

par

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📍 Willows (*Salix* spp.) are among the worst environmental weeds in Australia, with important consequences for aquatic and terrestrial environments. *Nematus oligospilus* Förster (Hymenoptera: Tenthredinidae), the willow sawfly, has been introduced inadvertently into most regions of the Southern Hemisphere, where it established and quickly became invasive partly due to its ability to reproduce clonally.

📍 At high population densities, *N. oligospilus* larvae can cause extensive willow defoliation and even lead to tree death. Could it be a free biological control agent for willows in Australia?

📍 This presentation will focus on the ecology and evolution of *N. oligospilus* in its introduced range to understand the reasons behind its persistence, spread and potential long-term impacts.

