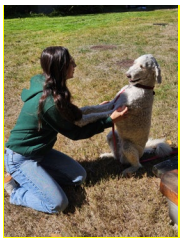
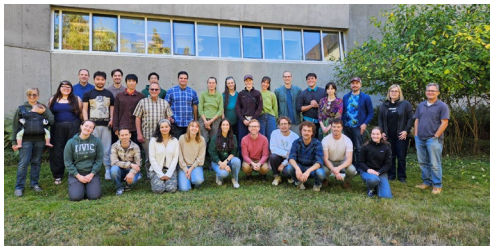
UVic Forest Biology Update

Fall 2026

September 2026 Welcome Lunch!

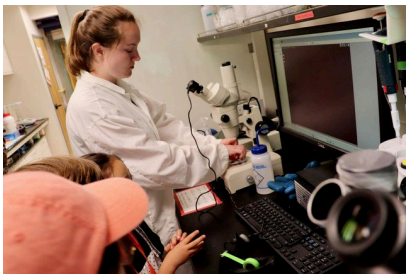
On September 17, 2026 we gathered together for our annual Fall Welcome lunch to meet out new lab members and celebrate the academic year ahead.





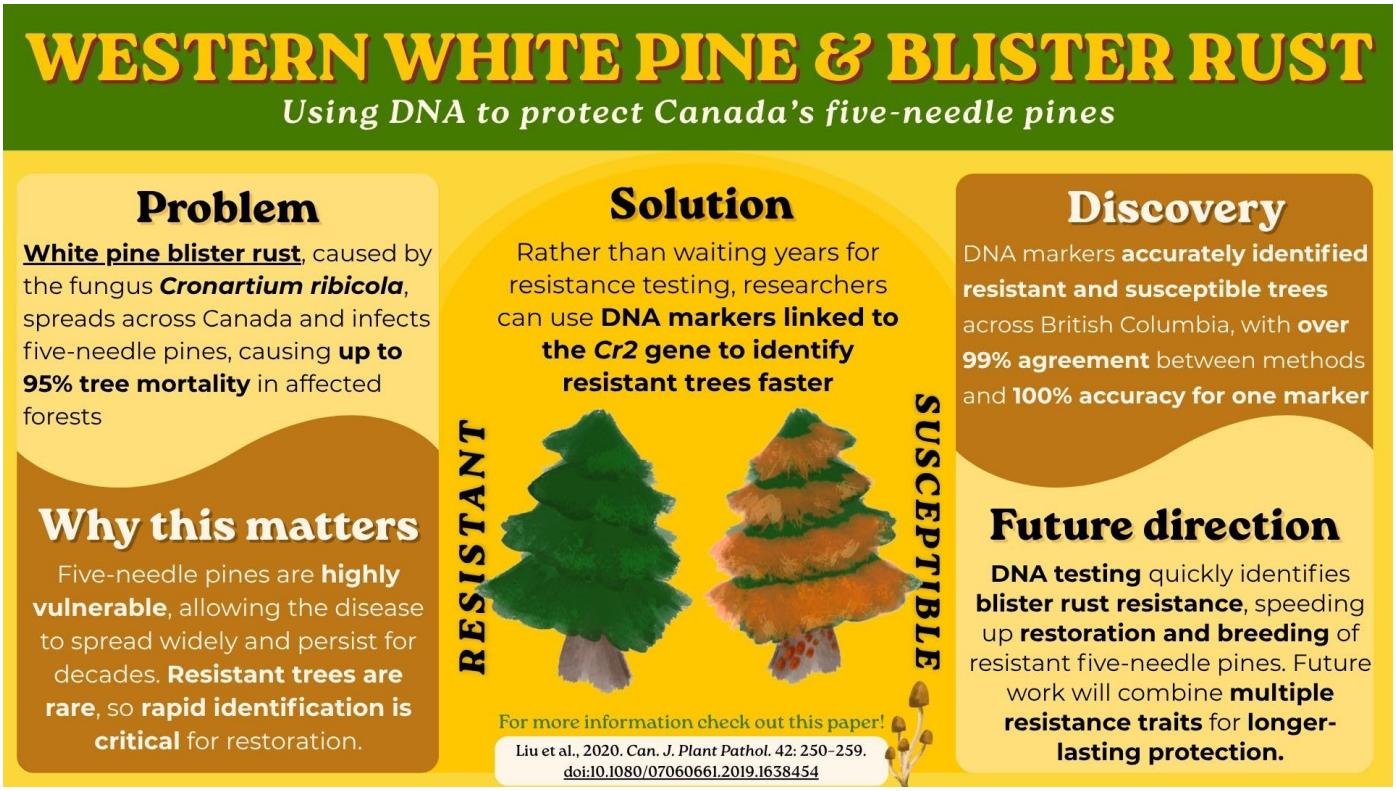
Science Venture Lab Tours

On July 23 the Ehlting Lab provided a lab tour to some of the Science Venture summer camp participants - It was a resounding success!



Canadian Phytopathological Society - Congratulations

This past summer Sydney Houston, an MSc student in the Constabel Lab, entered an Infographic Contest through the Canadian Phytopathological Society - she won Second Place! Well done, Sydney, fantastic work!



New FORB Members

Randi Church
Dr. Ehlting
MSc

Michaela Onasick
Dr. Ehlting
MSc

Jane Douglas
Dr. Ehlting
MSc

Gemma Tomberli
Dr. Hawkins
Research Assistant

Owen Unger
Dr. Hawkins
Directed Study

Shreya Mohan
Dr. Constabel
Research Assistant

Dr. Kanata Ichiishi
Dr. Perlman
Postdoc

Maximillian Hannah
Dr. Hawkins
Directed Study

Anna Venczel
Dr. Ehlting
Directed Study

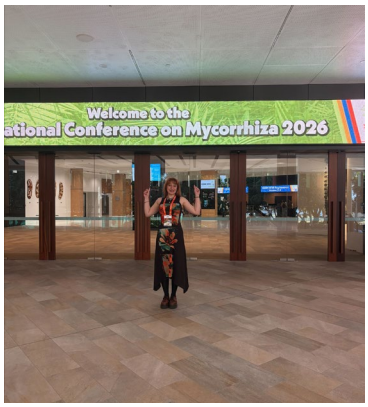
Parsa Khakpour
Dr. Ehlting
Directed Study

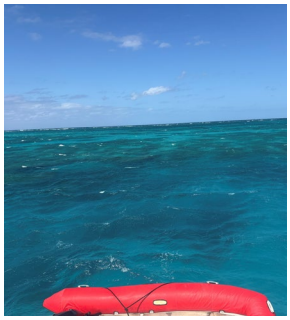
Katherine Smith
Dr. Hawkins
Directed Study

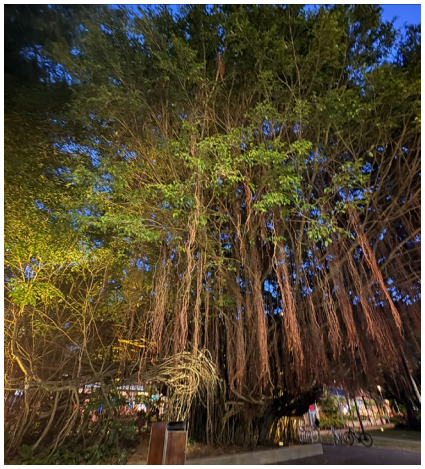
Belén Reed
Dr. Perlman
Research Assistant

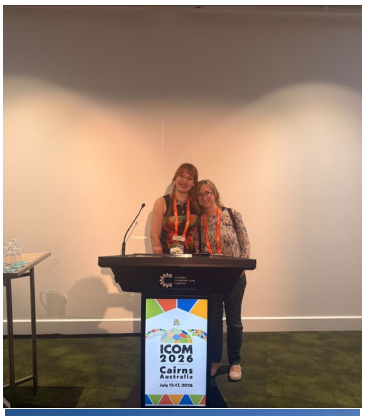
13th International Conference on Mycorrhiza!

I was so extremely lucky to have the opportunity to present my Master's research at the 13th International Conference on Mycorrhiza (ICOM) in Cairns, Australia! 🍄 🌿 My research focuses on ectomycorrhizal fungi, which are symbiotic fungi that form associations with the roots of many tree species, and the genes they carry in their genetic arsenal. In particular, I'm interested in the enzymes these fungi can use to break down complex compounds in forest soils, such as lignin, and what this might tell us about their role in decomposition and nutrient cycling. Ultimately, my goal is to characterize the key fungal species driving these processes in coastal forests! ICOM is the premier international conference dedicated to mycorrhizal research, and it was absolutely marvelous to share my work, discuss ideas with leading researchers in the field, and meet so many fellow colonized-root lovers from around the world. I was also beyond lucky to experience a little bit of tropical Australia along the way: wandering through the Cairns Botanic Gardens, frolicking around mangroves, looking at funky birds, finding spiders far too big for comfort, and even squeezing in a quick dive on the Great Barrier Reef! 🐢 🕷 🪸 An unforgettable conference, and an experience I'm incredibly grateful to have had!









Submitted by MSC Student Latina Penkova

Recent Publications

Jassey, V., Lafont Rapnouil, T., Le Geay, M., et al (including **Lacourse, T.**) 2026. Tipping Points in Bacterial Richness Amplify Extracellular Enzyme Activities in Northern Peatlands. *Global Change Biology* 32, no. 9: e71099. https://doi.org/10.1111/gcb.71099

Compiled by Andrea Roszmann, Administrative Assistant, FORB

FORB Hoodies!

FORB Hoodies are still for sale at $50 each. Pop by the FORB Office (CUN 153) with cash and pick one up! Office hours are Wed or Thurs 9:30am – 2:00pm