“Mutualistic virus-plant interactions: The effects of infection on drought resistance and pollinator attraction”

Under experimental conditions, bumblebees showed an innate preference for volatiles emitted by tomato plants infected with CMV. We speculate that if similar phenomena occur under natural conditions in wild plant populations, this may pay back susceptible host plants by encouraging pollinator visitation. Mathematical modeling suggests that under some conditions this may result in increased production of virus-susceptible offspring and if pollinator preference for infected susceptible plants was sufficiently strong, this could outweigh underlying strong selection pressures favoring the emergence of virus resistance.

Date: October 28th (Mon), 2019
Time: 13:00-13:40
Venue: Lecture Room 3, Aobayama-Commons