



POLISH MYCOLOGICAL
SOCIETY



Mycological Section of Biology
Students Scientific Society



FACULTY OF BIOLOGY AND
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
University of Lodz



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UNIVERSITY
OF WARMIA AND MAZURY
IN OLSZTYN



Mycological
Section of
Polish
Botanical
Society



Arthropod-Fungal Associations: from Parasites to Pathogens

3rd edition, Łódź & Spała (Poland), May 20-22, 2026

<https://sites.google.com/view/afa2026>

20 May (Wednesday)

place: Łódź city, Faculty of Biology and Environmental Protection, University of Łódź,

141/143 Pomorska Str., 90-236 Łódź, Room no. D-W13

9.00-10.00 registration of participants

10.00-10.15 conference opening

Ibtissem Ben Fekih, Małgorzata Ruszkiewicz-Michalska & Sebastian Piskorski

10.15-13.45 lecture session I

10.15-11.00 Redefining Entomopathogens: Taxonomy and Evolution in *Clavicipitaceae* and *Cordycipitaceae* by Jennifer Luangsa-ard

11.00-11.45 Arthropod-Fungal Associations in Biocontrol Contexts by Ibtissem Ben Fekih

11.45-12.15 coffee break

12.15-13.00 Fungal pathogens of bees and related associations by Annette Bruun Jensen

13.00-13.45 *Laboulbeniales*, outliers among the fungi by Danny Haelewaters

14.00-15.00 lunch break

15.00-17.00 travel to Spała (Field Station of University of Łódź)

at **18.30** get-together-party (optional)

21 May (Thursday)

place: Spała, Field Station of University of Łódź, 14 Wojciechowskiego Str.,
97-215 Spała

9.00-11.45 lecture session II

9.00-9.45 Beyond Zombie Ants: Hidden Diversity and Lifestyle Transitions in *Ophiocordyceps* by João Araújo

9.45-10.30 Generalists or Specialists? Rethinking the Ecology of *Aegeritella* by Marta Wrzosek

10.30-11.00 coffee break

11.00-11.45 *Entomophthoromycotina*: Taxonomy, Ecology, and Infection Biology by Ibtissem Ben Fekih

11.45-13.30 Elevator pitches and posters by participants (by choice)

13.30-14.30 lunch break

15.00-18.00 Field work

at **19.00** conference dinner (optional)

22 May (Friday)

place: Spała, Field Station of University of Łódź

9.00-10.30 lecture session III

9.00-9.45 Fungal pathogens of mites (*Acari*) by Cezary Tkaczuk

9.45-10.30 Preserving, Curating and the Use of Entomopathogenic Fungi by Lee Davies

10.30-11.00 coffee break

11.00-16.00 microscopy practical

Practical Approaches to *Entomophthorales* and Bee-Pathogenic *Onygenales*
by Ibtissem Ben Fekih & Annette Bruun Jensen

Practical Identification of Scale Insect Pathogens: Slide Mounting and Characterization by Jennifer Luangsa-ard

Introduction to *Laboulbeniales* by Aimée Blondelle

13.30-14.30 lunch break

16.00-17.00 round table discussion

moderators: Ibtissem Ben Fekih & Małgorzata Ruszkiewicz-Michalska

17.00 closing of conference and invitation to 4th AFA in 2027