

PHOTO ESSAY



Dr. Jonathan D. Bohbot studies mosquitoes' sense of smell, what smells attract or repel them – and why. He hopes that his research will enable the development of biosensors, as well as the design of smells fatal to the mosquito, enabling better control of pest populations.



Securing Life on Our Planet, for Generations to Come

Hebrew University's entomology researchers used to be scattered across the Robert H. Smith Faculty of Agriculture, Food and Environment. Officially, the department occupied a single building, which housed four research labs.

The other researchers were scattered. "We lacked cohesion," says Dr. Yael Mandelik, who heads the department. "We almost never saw each other, never had scientific interactions. We also couldn't expand, we had no room to grow."

Just last year, the entomology department moved into its new home: **The Kennedy Leigh Research Complex for Ecosystem Services in Agriculture**, which occupies the structures formerly known as the Warburg and Aaronsohn buildings. The former houses four scientists conducting research at the molecular level, while the latter hosts three ecological scientists, those who study individual insects, communities, and populations. The complex is also much

closer to the lab of one additional scientist, who continues to work at the edge of campus, where his beehives are kept at a safe distance.

To further encourage interaction, a beautiful garden with benches was constructed between the buildings. The plants were carefully chosen to attract insects. "Finally," says Prof. Sharoni Shafir, who heads the Institute of Environmental Sciences, "we're together – from molecules to eco-systems."

Scopus set out to meet the scientists and visit their labs in the newly renovated complex. In addition to the researchers featured here, Dr. Yael Heifetz and Dr. Philippos Papathanos also have labs in the Kennedy Leigh Research Complex.



The Aaron Aaronsohn building, 1958



Now and then. Today's researchers, from left to right: Prof. Moshe Coll, Prof. Shai Morin, Dr. Yael Mandelik, Prof. Sharoni Shafir, Dr. Jonathan D. Bohbot, and Prof. Boaz Yuval.



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1. Prof. Moshe Coll studies insect ecology, the biology and behavior of herbivores and their natural enemies in agro-ecosystems, and biological control of insect pests.
2. Prof. Boaz Yuval holds the Morris and Helen Mauerberger Chair in Agricultural Entomology. He studies nutritional and sexual ecology of flies and insect-bacteria interactions. His work has focused on mosquitoes, Mediterranean and olive fruit flies, and, recently, an invasive fly in the Galapagos islands.
3. Prof. Shai Morin studies the interactions between insects and their environment, with the aim of understanding the molecular mechanisms that enable insects to adapt and overcome biotic and abiotic challenges such as toxic plant defenses, climate change effects, and chemical treatments.
4. Dr. Yael Mandelik is an ecologist and conservation biologist. Her studies on insect pollinators and pollination explore questions related to pollination services to crops and wild plants, human-induced changes to pollinator communities, and pollinator health – all with the aim of contributing to sustainable agriculture and biodiversity conservation.



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