

**Friday morning, October 9, 8:45-9:35 a.m.**

**Marc Johnson, Ph.D., University of Toronto at Mississauga**

**A plant's dilemma: How to defend one's self against many enemies**

The interactions between plants and herbivores are among the most dominant ecological interactions on earth and they are credited with driving the evolutionary diversification of plant species and their phenotypic traits. This talk will consider how herbivores drive evolution of plant defenses over short timespans (2-5 years), as well as over millions of years. We will address what traits herbivores impose natural selection on, how quickly plants can evolve their defenses, and why species vary so dramatically in their investment and effectiveness of defenses.