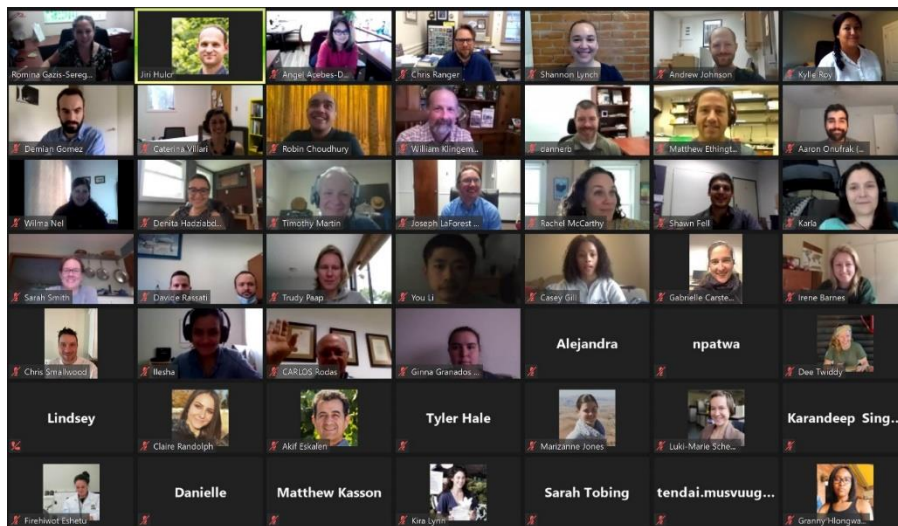


FABIANS PARTICIPATE IN BARK BEETLE MYCOBIOME RESEARCH NETWORK MEETING

On 2 September, FABIans who are part of the bark beetle mycobiome research network took part in their ninth virtual meeting. The bark beetle mycobiome research network is made up of a collaborative research community funded jointly by the National Research Foundation (NRF) from South Africa and the National Science Foundation (NSF) from the USA. The aim of the collaboration is to investigate all aspects of the bark beetle-fungus symbiosis. The September meeting was entitled “From the lab to the orchard: Bridging the gap between basic and applied research on bark and ambrosia beetles”. More than 50 researchers attended from different parts of the USA and South Africa.



FABI MSc student Shawn Fell discussed his research during the meeting. His talk entitled “The impact of the polyphagous shot hole borer on pecan trees in South Africa” focused on the impact of ambrosia beetle *Euwallacea fornicatus* (known as the polyphagous shot hole borer) on the South African pecan industry and the methods used to study and reduce the impact of this beetle. Online meetings held by the research network are open to anyone interested in bark and ambrosia beetle research and more information regarding the network and their meetings is available on their wiki.