Invitation

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CSIRO Land, Water and Ecosystems seminar series



Introduced dung beetles as models in ecological and evolutionary developmental biology

Professor Armin Moczek Indiana University

CSIRO invites you to the following seminar. Please feel free to forward this invitation to colleagues and collaborators outside of CSIRO. We look forward to seeing you at this event. RSVP not necessary.

Tuesday 10 April 2018 10:00am - 11:00am

Acacia Meeting Room, Synergy Black Mountain Laboratories, Clunies Ross Street, Black Mountain, Canberra ACT

For enquiries about the seminar series or to nominate to present a seminar, please contact

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Professor Armin Moczek - Indiana University

Abstract:

Exotic and invasive species represent opportunities to study rapid, short term evolution in action. Our research group uses accidental and deliberate introductions of dung beetle species outside their native ranges to investigate how developmental processes and ecological conditions interact to shape both short term plastic and long term evolved diversification among populations. In this talk I will highlight a subset of studies that illustrate how simple ecological differences such as population densities can drive rapid divergence in suites of morphological, developmental, and physiological traits, and how plastic responses to changing conditions may precede, bias, and facilitate canalized evolved differences in the long term. I discuss these results in the context of the introduction history of dung beetles in Australia, the debated role of genetic accommodation in adaptive evolution, and the extraordinary speciation rate of Onthophagus beetles worldwide.

Bio:

Armin received his PhD from Duke University, NC, USA, and is currently a Professor of Biology at Indiana University, Bloomington. He is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Australian-American Fulbright Foundation, and the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation. His research focuses on the very early stages of innovation in evolution, and the interplay between genetics, development, and ecology in facilitating major innovations and transitions in evolution. He is also a co-leader of an international effort to expand traditional perspectives on what determines speed and direction in evolution to incorporate recent advances in the fields of evolutionary developmental biology, developmental plasticity, non-genetic inheritance, and niche construction. During his time in Australia, Armin will work at the Research School of Biology at the ANU and the Australian National Insect Collection at CSIRO to further advance such a synthesis through both conceptual efforts as well as empirical work on Australian insects.

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