



News fEEB

Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Monthly Newsletter

October 2020 · Volume 2 · Issue 1 Author: Michael W.D. McCloy

mwdmccloy@tamu.edu

Monthly Discussion

Recently, TAMU EEB successfully hosted the 2020 Open Source for Open Science workshop online. Thanks to all who made it possible! Events like this highlight the ever-growing importance of interdisciplinary collaboration to make science accessible to a wide audience.

As students and scientists, what creative and tangible actions can we take to make our own science more open and accessible?

Want to join the discussion?

***Respond to the corresponding email
OR Tweet your response using
#TAMUEEB***

Upcoming

Oct. 5 Anna Armitage (TAMU-Galveston), *Climate change and coastal ecosystems: Ecological consequences of mangrove expansion into salt marshes*

Oct. 12 Elinor Lichtenberg (University of North Texas), *Title TBA*

Oct. 19 Keisuke Atsumi (TAMU), *Non-additivity in heterozygous genome pervades phenotypic distribution of male F1 hybrids: a meta-analysis*

Oct. 26 Jamie Alfieri (TAMU), *Hybridization in Galliformes: Why the chicken crossed the road;* & Bert Foquet (TAMU), *Locust phase polyphenism in a phylogenetic framework*

Follow us on Social Media!

Twitter: [@TAMUEEB](#)

[Facebook](#)

And updates on our [website!](#)

**You or a colleague accomplish something? Let us know by tweeting
#TAMUEEB**

Want to submit a story or announcement for the *News fEEB*?

Let us know by [clicking HERE](#)



**ECOLOGY and
EVOLUTIONARY
BIOLOGY**

For more information visit:
eeb.tamu.edu

EEB Spotlight

We are excited to welcome a diverse and highly accomplished incoming cohort of twelve first-year PhD students this semester! To help us all get to know them a little better, we are highlighting the new cohort in this month's EEB Spotlight.

Elena Iacono is from the Clearwater Beach, Florida area and is studying under Dr. Jacquelyn Grace in the Department of Ecology and Conservation Biology. She is interested in the ecological physiology of birds, and especially in how they respond to environmental stressors. In particular, she is interested in issues pertaining to the One Health concept.



Amy Janik is from Tinley Park, Illinois and is supervised by Dr. Kira Delmore in the Department of Biology. For her project she plans to study hybrid zone dynamics between black-chinned (*Archilochus alexandri*) and ruby-throated (*Archilochus colubris*) hummingbirds, focusing on reproductive barriers and genomic differences. Here, she is seen with a broad-billed tody (*Todus subulatus*) on Hispaniola.

Paola Fascinetto Zago is from Puebla, Mexico and is in the Rosenthal Lab in the Department of Biology. Her research interests are centered around animal behavior and evolutionary ecology. In particular, she is interested in the relationship between learning and animal personality. She wants to know if animal personality affects cognitive strategies in two species of swordtails and their hybrids. Moreover, she wants to shed light on the non-sexual mechanisms that affect mate choice in these fish.



Griffin Nicholson is from Yorba Linda, California and is supervised by Dr. Lee Fitzgerald in the Department of Ecology and Conservation Biology. His research focus is on amphibian invasions and their impacts on native communities. In particular, he is focused on bullfrog invasions in non-native environments and their interactions with native anurans.

Arani Cuevas-Sanchez is in the Jurgens Lab in the Department of Marine Biology, at the Texas A&M-Galveston campus. She was born in Mexico and grew up in Portland, Oregon. For her PhD she plans to investigate how marine communities respond to ecologically relevant stressors through field and laboratory experiments. She aims to contribute to our understanding of how marine inverts use physiological mechanisms and behavior to mitigate the effects of multiple and cycling environmental stressors.



Nicole Scavo is from Des Moines, Iowa and is supervised by Dr. Gabe Hamer in the Department of Entomology. She is interested in the disease ecology of dengue and blood-feeding habits in the mosquito *Ae. aegypti*.



**ECOLOGY and
EVOLUTIONARY
BIOLOGY**

For more information visit:
eeb.tamu.edu

Rhiannon Belcher is from Madison, Wisconsin and Ellensburg, Washington and is working under Dr. Jessica Yorzinski in the Department of Ecology and Conservation Biology. She is interested in the visual and cognitive abilities of social species of nonhuman primates. Although she will not be focusing on it for her dissertation, she is also very passionate about lemur conservation.



Meredith Anderson is from Michigan and is supervised by Dr. Sarah Hamer in the Department of Veterinary Integrative Biosciences. In vet school she became very interested in toxicology and disease ecology and wanted to apply those disciplines to bird conservation research. Her research looks at the relationships between chronic pesticide exposure, immune health, and disease transmission in migratory passerines.

Tori Spencer is from St. Louis, Missouri and is in the Winemiller Aquatic Ecology Lab in the Department of Ecology and Conservation Biology. Her project investigates community structure (trophic position, diet composition, migratory status and functional traits) of fishes in rheophilic waters.



Lydia Morley is from Salt Lake City, Utah and is working in the Spalink Lab in the Department of Ecology and Conservation Biology. She is working on the evolutionary relationships within the group *Platanthera* (pan-continental terrestrial orchids in the northern hemisphere) and is interested in how we can use gene tree discordance to better understand their evolutionary history. Namely, how we can use discordance in combination with historical biogeography and ecology to examine the extent to which interspecific gene flow has influenced divergence and diversification.

Peter Dorn is from Dallas, Texas and is supervised by Drs. Michelle Lawing and Joe Veldman in the Department of Rangeland, Wildlife, and Fisheries Management. He is interested in exploring mathematical models applied to wildland fire and spread. In particular, he is interested in adapting pre-existing models of disease spread and herd immunity in the context of fires.

Alanna Noland is from southern Indiana and supervised by Dr. Mariana Mateos in the Department of Ecology and Conservation Biology. Her research interests are in population and conservation genetics, especially related to phylogeography. This includes life history of species and population dynamics. She is primarily interested in species of concern but other species are also of interest.

COVID-19 Resources

[TAMU Face Covering Guidelines](#)

[CDC: Community, Work, and School](#)

[TAMU Student Return Training](#)

[TAMU COVID-19 Guidance Website](#)

[Texas DSHS COVID-19 Website \(including case numbers and testing sites\)](#)

[Student Health Services: \(979\)-458-8310](#)



**ECOLOGY and
EVOLUTIONARY
BIOLOGY**

For more information visit:
eeb.tamu.edu