EEB Monthly Newsletter

Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Monthly Newsletter

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Monthly Discussion

What do you think the newsletter should be called?

Want to join the discussion?

Respond to the corresponding email

Announcements

Seminar Speakers

Oct. 7 *Rita Graze, The landscape of sex-differential gene expression in Drosophila*

Oct. 8 *Sarah McAnulty, #SciComm*

Oct. 14 *Rich Merritt, The Living Stream: A functional approach*

Oct. 21 *Eric Yip, Exploring the ecology of a plant that eavesdrops on its specialist herbivore*

EEB Spotlight

Special thanks to those on the Communications Committee who provided feedback on the production of this months newsletter: *Jocelyn Hunyadi, Jordan Salomon, Milton Torres,* *and* *Michael McCloy.* *With the assistance of* *Drs. Jeff Tomberlin* *and* *Nick Jacobson*

Do you want to recognize someone in the EEB program for their accomplishments?

The EEB Spotlight will highlight the undergraduate and graduate students as well as faculty and staff who have made significant contributions such as publications, awards, and other accomplishments the previous month.

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

ECOLOGY and EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGY

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Laboratory Highlight

FLIES Facility — Dr. Jeffery K. Tomberlin

The Tomberlin lab, a.k.a. the Forensic Laboratory for Investigative Entomological Sciences (F.L.I.E.S.) Facility studies the behavior, ecology, and natural history of arthropods associated with decomposition of plants and animals. This research is applicable to fields such as Sustainable Agriculture/Aquaculture, and Forensic Science.

Travis Rusch is a postdoctoral research associate, co-advised by Dr. Aaron Tarone, investigating the thermal ecology of necrophagous insects. This work provides information on the thermal tolerances, preferences, and performances of blow flies, which have useful applications in forensic entomology and decomposition ecology.

Fengchun "SPRING" Yang is a PhD Candidate examining host-microbe interactions of black soldier fly, and inter-kingdom communication. Specifically, he is determining the impact of larval starvation on microbial function associated with digestion within larvae. This research assists in research and development in mass production of insects that can be used as feed of livestock

Zanthé Kotzé is a Ph.D. Candidate evaluating the mechanisms driving arthropod succession by evaluating the functional relationships observed on carrion. Establishing a platform which deciphers mechanisms driving the pre-colonization interval by assessing the variations in strategies of specialist and generalist, primary and secondary carrion colonizers.

Brittny Jones is a Ph.D. Candidate examining the role of larval nutrition ecology of sexual conflict between males competing for females in the black soldier fly. This research assists in research and development in mass production of insects that can be used as feed of livestock.

Jennifer Rhinesmith-Carranza is a Ph.D. student studying regurgitation and defecation behaviors of the common green bottle fly in response to the quorum sensing compound indole and their ecological and forensic implications.

Casey Flint is a Ph.D. student examining the role and identity of microbes in the attraction and oviposition of the primary colonizer, the secondary screwworm to vertebrate carrion. This research sheds light on the behavior and mutualisms on primary colonizers of vertebrate remains.

Samantha Sawyer is a Ph.D. student working on the impacts of vertebrate scavenger access to carrion on arthropod community structure of varying biomass. Additionally, she's testing whether the "Mother Knows Best" Hypothesis sheds light on niche partitioning in blow flies. This research looks at the behavior, evolution, and selection of carrion feeding in primary colonizers of vertebrate remains.

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