NEWS

Awards
Jochen Zeil (EEG) has been selected by the Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences as one of the 2014 Top Referees.

Susan Breen (Solomon Group, PS) won a Postdoctoral poster prize from the Genetics Society of America at the Fungal Genetics Meeting.

Grants
Ulrike Mathesius (PS) is a CI on an ARC Industrial Transformation Hub (‘Legumes for Sustainable Agriculture’), led through Sydney University and funded for the next five years with $3.9M.

Xia Hua, Lindell Bromham, Marcel Cardillo (EEG) and CSIRO collaborators received an Ignition Grant from Centre for Biodiversity Analysis for the project ‘Developing new methods for using distribution data to identify taxa that can tolerate extreme conditions’, funded for one year, with $10K.

Xia Hua, Lindell Bromham, (EEG) and linguistic collaborators received a New Initiative & Transdisciplinary Grant from the ARC Centre of Excellence of the Dynamics of Language for the project ‘Investigating the link between micro-level linguistic changes to macro-level processes in language diversification’; funded for one year with $9.5K.

Workshop
On 2 June 2015 the Centre for Biodiversity Analysis will host a short Workshop ‘Gonomic and Phenomics tools to identify the genetic basis underlying natural variation and adaptation’. This workshop is free, but you need to register by 27 May 2015 as places are limited.

IN THE MEDIA

New target to treat type 2 diabetes
A paper published in Molecular Metabolism by Stefan Bröer, Yang Jiang, Angelika Bröer (Bröer Group, BSB) and colleagues has been featured in online media and on WIN news. Lead researcher Stefan said the findings show that mice with a reduced capacity to digest and absorb protein are highly efficient at removing glucose from blood after a meal - what individuals with diabetes fail to do. The research has significant potential for the design of new drugs to treat type 2 diabetes.

Discussion on PLoS paper

Sexist peer review causes storm online
Megan Head has been in the news after she and her colleague Fiona Ingleby received an inappropriate, sexist review of a manuscript they submitted to PLoSONE. (For the record, their study surveyed male-female differences in success at obtaining post-doctoral funding/fellowships.) After an unsatisfactory review process, and having lodged an appeal and giving the journal a reasonable chance to attend to the matter, Drs Head and Ingleby posted portions of the review on Twitter. There was an eruption of online responses and articles in major print media, including The Times Higher Education, Washington Post, and Science. Megan’s experience is a timely reminder of the need to be proactive in countering sexism in science.

Orchid study discovers novel pollinator
A paper by Ryan Phillips, Bjorn Bohman, Rod Peakall (Peakall Group, EEG) and colleagues and published in the Journal of Evolutionary Biology has been featured in online media. The study investigated populations of a rare orchid, Drakaea concolor, and discovered that one population attracted a novel, common species of wasp pollinator in addition to a known rare wasp species.

Outreach activities
RSB is assisting ACT Waterwatch to freeze dry and process the corpses of platypus and water rats. These are used in demonstrations to their volunteers and school visits.

RSB assisted ANU Graduate House and Nepali students in a BBQ fund-raising event for Nepal’s earthquake victims, by contributing a BBQ, gas, and tables. The event was held on Saturday 9 May at Dickson Woolworths, and raised $4.44K. Rice and tents are being distributed to villagers in Rasuwa, Nepal.

PHDs SUBMITTED
Jiahui Du (Price Group, PS), ‘Functional characterisation of cyanobacterial bicarbonate transporters in E. coli’.

Melita Milner (Baum) (Crisp Group, EEG), ‘Phylogeography of wild and domesticated populations of coconut (Cocos nucifera)’.

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Andrew Bowerman (Pogson Group, PS), ‘Investigating sugar signalling in wheat’.

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Andrew Bowerman (Pogson Group, PS), ‘Investigating sugar signalling in wheat’.
Choi Hua Goh (Mathesius Group, PS), ‘Phenotypic responses to nitrate availability in Medicago truncatula under a range of nodulation conditions’.


**WELCOME**

Steven Holland is an artist visiting the RSB from the College of Arts and Social Sciences, School of Art. After just finishing his PhD on bronze serpents, he is working in EEG under the ANU Vice-Chancellors College Artist Fellowship Scheme. This innovative, five year scheme which is supported by funding from the Vice-Chancellor is the first of its kind in any Australian university. It will allow Steven to engage in collaborative research with the RSB to create a series of bronze and aluminium sculptures that explore human perceptions of reptiles and amphibians. Steven is very keen to meet people from RSB so please drop by his ‘studio’ in the bottom floor of Banks, Room R116. Steven will give a seminar at the School on December 10, and exhibit his works in February (see photo on Page 1).

Yeannie Yap has joined the Solomon Group (PS) as an visiting Endeavour Research Fellow.

**FAREWELL**

Ajay Narendra (Zeil Group, EEG) is leaving to take up his Future fellowship at Macquarie University, but will continue to visit RSB to collaborate on an ARC funded project on insect navigation. An informal farewell is planned at 3pm, Thursday 4 June in the Little Pickle cafe.

**PAPERS ACCEPTED**


Choi, YH, Muria-Gonzalez, JM, Mead, OL, & Solomon, PS, SnPKS19 encodes the polyketide synthase for alternariol mycotoxin biosynthesis in the wheat pathogen *Parastagonospora nodorum*, *Applied and Environmental Microbiology*

Hess, L, Meir, P, & Blingham, IJ, Comparative assessment of the sensitivity of oil seed rape and wheat to limited water supply, *Annals of Applied Biology*

Hua, X, Cowman, P, Warren, D, & Bromham, L, Longevity is linked to mitochondrial mutation rates in rockfish: a test using Poisson regression of substitution rates, *Molecular Biology and Evolution*

Igic, B, McLachlan, Lehtinen, I, & Magrath, RD, Crying wolf to a predator: Deceptive vocal mimicry by a bird protecting young, *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*

Lin, P, Foret, F, Wilson, S, & Burden, CJ, Estimation of the methylation pattern distribution from deep sequencing data, *BMC Bioinformatics*

Lockett, GA, Huoman, J, & Holloway, JW, Does allergy begin in utero? *Pediatric Allergy and Immunology*

Miner, R, Stairs, D, Hayes, G, & Evans, M, Distribution and habitat preference of the Broad-toothed rat (*Mastacomys fuscus*) in the Australian Capital Territory, *Australian Mammalogy*

Nottingham, AT, Turner, BL, Whitaker, J, Meir, P, *et al.*, Soil microbial nutrient constraints along a tropical forest elevation gradient: a belowground test of a biogeochemical paradigm, *Biogeosciences* *Discuss*


Rowland R, Harper A, Christoffersen BO, Meir, P, *et al.*, Modelling climate change responses in tropical forests: similar productivity estimates across five models, but different mechanisms and responses, *Geoscientific model development*

Schultheiss, P, Raderschall, CA, & Narendra, A, Follower ants in a tandem pair are not always naive, *Scientific Reports*


Troncoso-Palacios, J, Diaz, HA, Esquerre, D, Urra, FA, Two new species of the *Liolaemus elongatus-kriegi* complex (*Iguana, Liolaemidae*) from Andean highlands of southern Chile, *ZooKeys*

Troncoso-Palacios, J, & Esquerre, D, A new *Liolaemus* species of the *L. elongatus clade* (*Iguana: Liolaemidae*) from Southern Chile, *Zootaxa*


Wilson, A, Howitt, S & Higgins, D, A fundamental misalignment: intended learning and assessment practices in undergraduate science research projects, In: *Assessment and Evaluation in Higher Education*

Wilson, A, Howitt, S, & Higgins, D, Assessing the unassessable: making learning visible in undergraduates’ experiences of scientific research, In: *Assessment and Evaluation in Higher Education*