



Australian
National
University

PhD exit seminar. What can native insects tell us about controlling invasive species?

Thursday 28 March 2013, 1pm

Brian Garms Rowell Lab, EEG, RSB

Gould Seminar Room (Room 235), Gould Building (Bldg. 116), Linnaeus Way, ANU



The increasing number of exotic organisms spreading worldwide is an all too familiar tale. Management of these invasive species is often difficult as novel organisms may behave in unexpected ways in a new habitat; many very damaging invasive species are relatively benign in their native range. Developing and prioritizing programs to manage invasive species is further complicated by “lag times” between arrival of an exotic organism and its possible emergence as a serious pest. Newly arrived organisms may not initially be pests but over time some, although not all, do become pests. Similarly, biological control agents are known to often take many years to have an effect on target species, but it is not always clear if agents which have not yet been successful will become so over time, or if they are fundamentally incapable of controlling their target in a new environment.

In my presentation, I will discuss how these lag times complicate using current field observations to predict potential long term impacts for both invasive and native species. I will also demonstrate how my work with three plant-insect systems illustrates some ways in which native insects can be used as tools to explore and refine questions regarding the long term dynamics of species invasions and biological control.

Presented by

Research School of
Biology

ANU College of
Medicine, Biology
& Environment

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This lecture is free and open to the public

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