



Australian
National
University

PUBLIC LECTURE

Primordial enemies: fungal pathogens in social insect evolution

Thursday 20 March 1pm – 2pm

Speaker

Professor Andy Beattie

Emeritus Professor, Macquarie University

Location

Gould Seminar Room

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

Contact

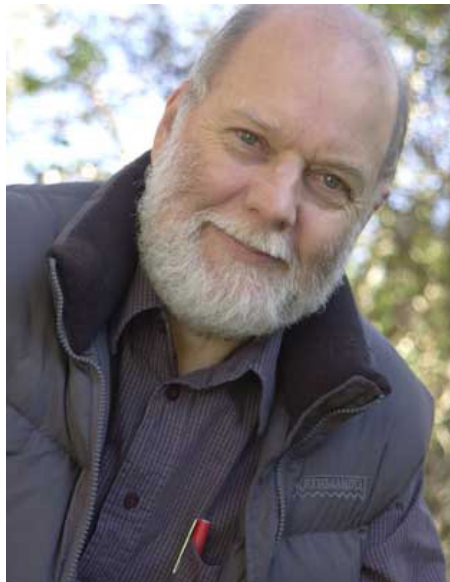
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This lecture is free and open to the public

RSB event information:

biology.anu.edu.au/News/Events.php



Fossils of fungi specialised to attack insects provide evidence that these microbial pathogens were present in the environments in which insect societies first evolved. Consequently, they may have exerted strong selection on colony evolution in the bees, wasps, ants, thrips and termites which emerged as the most successful and widespread of insects. Our research shows the importance of cuticular antifungal secretions as the front-line defences against fungal pathogens and, for the first time, suggests a major role for pathogenic fungi in the evolution of sociality.

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