



PhD Exit Seminar: Thermal microenvironments and the ecology of the alpine herb *Aciphylla glacialis*

Thursday 5 June 1 – 2pm

Speaker

Veronica Briceno

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Location

Gould Seminar Room

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

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This lecture is free and open to the public

RSB event information:
biology.anu.edu.au/News/Events.php



Alpine areas are often described as comprising gradient of warm air temperatures at low elevations to cold air temperatures at high. However, plant temperature does not usually follow that thermal gradient. One of the most important determinants of plant microenvironment in alpine areas is the presence of snow. Plants living under snow remain at very stable and relatively warm temperatures even when air temperature is below zero. However, in patches where snow melts earlier, plants are exposed to very low temperatures and quite different thermal microenvironments. During my PhD I studied how these contrasting microenvironments correlate with within-species differences in vegetative and physiological traits in *Aciphylla glacialis*, a widely distributed alpine plant in Kosciuszko National Park. In this talk I will describe my key findings and their relevance under future alpine climate scenarios.

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