ANU Seminar

EVOLUTION, ECOLOGY, & GENETICS
RESEARCH SCHOOL OF BIOLOGY

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Assessing a chemosterilant for fertility control of rats

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Fertility control of rodents could be used as an additional approach for the management of pest populations in agricultural production systems. One potential technique is the use of chemosterilants which induce long-term infertility in females. The aim of my research was to evaluate the effects of an industrial chemical, 4-vinylcyclohexene diepoxide (VCD) on reproduction of female and male laboratory rats (*Rattus norvegicus*). In addition, oral delivery of fertility control agents requires information on rates of bait-uptake by the target species. In the later part of my research, bait-uptake by wild ricefield rats (*Rattus argentiventer*), one of the potential pest species for fertility control, was assessed.

This talk presents and discusses two parts of my PhD project. First, the effect of VCD on ovarian follicle populations and breeding outcomes for female rats, and second, an evaluation of bait-uptake by wild ricefield rats under enclosure conditions, using Rhodamine B (RB) as a bait marker.

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Seminars are held in the Gould Wing Seminar Room, Building 116 Daley Rd, ANU

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