

October

2021

EEB Department Newsletter

About This Newsletter

EEB Monthly is a department newsletter that will be sent at the end of each month. It will be used to share departmental information, remind team members of upcoming events, acknowledge various accomplishments, and keep us all connected while we are apart.

This newsletter is for your enjoyment, and we rely heavily on submissions from our community for its content, so if you have any suggestions for upcoming editions, please email leah.rossettie@uconn.edu or eeb.assistant@uconn.edu

Enjoy!

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Global Diversity Awareness Month is celebrated throughout the month of October as an opportunity to foster an appreciation for the differences and similarities that unite us.



Diversity awareness allows for the exploration of differences between, but not limited to, dimensions of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, age, physical abilities, religious beliefs, and political beliefs.

Further resources about diversity and Global Diversity Month:

[National Events Council: Global Diversity Awareness Month](#)

[Locke Lord Diversity Awareness](#)



LGBT people make up “the only community worldwide that is not taught its history at home, in public schools or in religious institutions” (lgbthistorymonth.com).

LGBT history month, established by Rodney Wilson in 1994, is an opportunity for members in and out of the community to learn which events and persons brought us to where we are today, and find pride in the people who came before us. Preserving and unearthing LGBT history is a constant work-in-progress.

It is celebrated in the month of October because of existing events, such as National Coming Out Day on October 11th.

To learn more:

[LGBT History Month](#)

[Why Do We Celebrate Pride Month in June and LGBT History Month in October?](#)



Publications

Former **Bolnick** Lab postdoc **Milan Vrtilek** presents a phylogenetic analysis of an innate immune response in 17 species of teleost fish challenged with experimental immune stimulants, Vrtilek and Bolnick 2021 *Evolution* <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1111/evo.14316>

Former **Bolnick** lab postdoc **Stephen De Lisle** presents a study of how an immunopathology impacts male and female reproductive fitness in wild stickleback populations; De Lisle and Bolnick 2021 *Evolution* <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/evo.14266>

Visiting PhD student **Ayesha Akram** published a phylogenetic analysis of frogs in Pakistan, Akram et al 2021 *Ecology and Evolution* <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/ece3.8134>

Math PhD student Samuel Fleisher co-published with **Dan Bolnick** and Sebastian Schreiber, presenting a mathematical model of how feeding behavior and immune phenotypes might impact each other's eco-evolutionary dynamics with tropically transmitted parasites. Fleisher, Bolnick, and Schreiber 2021 *Evolution* <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/evo.14353>

Sweet, S.S., and **E.L. Jockusch** (equal contributors). 2021. A new relict species of slender salamander (Plethodontidae: *Batrachoseps*) with a tiny range from Point Arguello, California. *Ichthyology and Herpetology* 109:836-850. <https://doi.org/10.1643/h2020027>

Jockusch, E.L., and **C.R. Fisher**. 2021. Something old, something new, something borrowed, something red: the genomic substrate and developmental mechanisms underlying the origin of novelty in Hemiptera. *Current Opinion in Genetics and Development*. 69:154-162. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/34058515/>

G. Palomar, K. Dudek, B. Wielstra, **E.L. Jockusch**, M. Vinkler, J.W. Arntzen, G.F. Ficetola, M. Matsunami, B. Waldman, M. Těšický, P. Zieliński, and W. Babik. 2021. Molecular evolution of antigen processing genes in salamanders: do they coevolve with MHC class I genes? *Genome Biology and Evolution* 13:evaa259 (15 pp.) <https://doi.org/10.1093/gbe/evab058>

Brown, H.M., **M.A. Rubega**, and H. Dierssen. 2021. The light's in my eyes: optical modeling demonstrates wind is more important than sea surface-reflected sunlight for foraging herons. *PeerJ* 9:e12006 <https://doi.org/10.7717/peerj.12006>

Former UConn postdoc **Lauren Fuess** published in *Molecular Ecology* last week: Fuess et al 2021 Between-population differences in constitutive and infection-induced gene expression in threespine stickleback <https://doi.org/10.1111/mec.16197>



SARAH KNUTIE · OCT 4

Really proud of [@bat_biomes](#)

+ the awesome team, which includes three [@UConnOUR](#)

undergrads! Check out the paper

[@ItascaBio](#)

[@uconneeb](#)

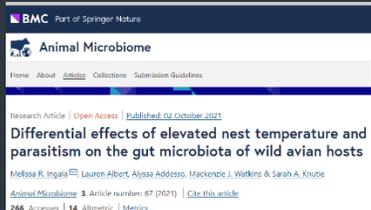
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MELISSA INGALA @BAT_BIOMES

Hot off the press this weekend: in collaboration with

[@SarahKnutie](#)

eastern bluebird and tree swallow gut bacteria react differently to ambient heat + natural nest parasitism!



Awards in EEB

The Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation will provide \$540,000 to UConn (PI; Kathryn Milligan-Myhre in MCB, co-PI **Bolnick**) to create a stock center to provide threespine stickleback (eggs, adults, CRISPR-edited eggs, cell lines, and microbes) on demand to the international research community using stickleback.

EEB'S **Michael Finiguerra** and MARN's Hans Dam awarded funding from CT Sea Grant for "Copepod adaptation to climate change: No free lunch?" Michael describes the research as "These are the same evolved lines from the Nature Climate Change study, now on >100 generations! We will be testing for sustained population fitness and quantify direct, hidden, and relative differences in costs to adaptation to ocean warming and acidification."

Michael Finiguerra has been selected, through a highly competitive application process, to be a CLAS Leadership Fellow.



UConn Distinguished Professor Receives C. Hart Merriam Award

"Among the top 2 percent of ecologists in the world, **Michael Willig** is recognized for his dedication to research and education about mammals and the environment."

- Amy Chen, [UConn Today](#)

Thank you to everyone who helped organize & put on The Barn Dance!!!



More wonderful [Barn Dance '21](#) photos are available in Google Drive, thanks to **Cindy Barreto!**



*What's blooming
in the
EEB Greenhouse?*



This beautiful hybrid orchid gave out some show-stopping blooms! We are generally never accepting of hybrids since all plants in our greenhouses are used for research. This one must have slipped through and has earned it's rare opportunity to be a part of our collection! This cross is *Catasetum tenebrosum* X *Catasetum orchidglade* or is also known as the Donna Wise hybrid. It has a musky scent that has gotten substantially stronger throughout the day.



The flowers on the *Dichorisandra thyrsiflora* are beginning to bloom on this rainy morning. Also commonly known as the blue ginger, this evergreen perennial is not actually part of the ginger family and is closely related to spiderworts. The origination of these plants come from is North, Central, and South America.

In the News...

Andrew Stillman: [Bird Pop: In Search of Blacker Pastures](#)



Searching for signals from radio tagged Black-backed Woodpeckers in the Bald Fire area. Photo courtesy of Andrew Stillman.



A fledgling Black-backed Woodpecker (right) fitted with a radio transmitter. The fine wire extending from the back of the bird is the transmitter's antenna. Photo courtesy of Andrew Stillman.

Cynthia Jones & Nature Rx: [UConn Today: Get Your Daily Dose of the Great Outdoors with NatureRx at UConn](#)

Erin Kuprewicz and **Laura Bizzari** were both featured in The Organization for Tropical Studies Newsletter: Hitchhikers in the rainforest: [How human transportation models can help us understand interactions between hummingbirds, plants, and flower mites](#)

The stock assessment for Tautog in Long Island Sound that **Jacob Kasper** worked on over the past year has been accepted and adopted for management use. The Tautog stock has recovered since the previous assessment (2016) and there is no change in the current regulations. [Tautog Regional Assessments Update Show Improvements in Stock Status](#)

Accomplishments!

On Friday 10/15, three of the BRC Collections Managers (**Meghan Moriarty**, **Sarah Taylor**, and **Erin Kuprewicz**) took part in a successful and well-attended UConn Research Connections event [FYP UConn Research Connections!](#) They look forward to having many enthusiastic undergrads visit the BRC and work on exciting projects together in the preserved and living collections.

EEB Resources:

- [EEB Website](#)
- [EEB Covid-19 Safety Plan](#)
- [WFH Resources](#)

