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Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

EEB Monthly: December 2022

EEB Monthly is a department newsletter to be distributed 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 between our different goals and responsibilities.

This newsletter is for your enjoyment, and to provide it, we rely heavily on submissions from our community for its content! If you have anything you'd like to share in upcoming editions, we encourage you to send any submissions to Pam Diggle and/or the assistant email (eeb.assistant@uconn.edu).



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National Blood Donor Month - New Year's Day (Jan. 1st), Martin Luther King Day (Jan. 16th), National Geographic Day (Jan. 27th)

January is **National Blood Donor Month**. It is a time to recognize the importance of giving blood and platelets and celebrate its lifesaving impact. It is also a time to encourage new and previous donors to give blood during the winter months.

January 1st: New Year

January 16th: Martin Luther King Day

January 27th: National Geographic Day

In the News

Chris Elphick was quoted in an article by Salon: [The social lives of birds: Turkeys are violent, back-stabby, and class-obsessed](#)

Sydney Horan's box-nesting bird-parasite work in Hartford was featured in Hartford News: [Bluebirds in Paradise: Nest parasite community science in Hartford parks](#)

Kurt Schwenk was interviewed for articles in the [New York Times](#) and [CNN](#) about the discovery and possible function of female genitalia ('hemiclitores') in snakes.

David Wagner's work is featured in an engaging, animated article on Reuters. Check it out here: [The Collapse of Insects.](#)

Bernard Goffinet and Eric Schultz spoke on a *Why We Argue* episode about their roles in building and maintaining UConn's Biodiversity Research Collections and their vision for how scientific knowledge, data, and research will shape our future. Listen to the podcast episode [here!](#)



On Monday, December 12th, the EEB Holiday Party was held to a resounding success. Special thanks to those who helped with setup and cleanup, to Eric, Sarah, and Dipanjana of the planning committee, and to Michael for the entertaining trivia. Cheers to an excellent semester!

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Katrina Menard was awarded funding from the National Science Foundation for her grant: *Collaborative Research: Digitization TCN: iDigBees Network, Towards Complete Digitization of US Bee Collections to Promote Ecological and Evolutionary Research in a Keystone Clade*.

NIH R01 renewal proposal with NIAID "Reciprocal genetics of recently-evolved vertebrate immunity and helminth counter-adaptation" has been funded.

Dan Bolnick

SEA Long Island Sound Study grant titled: *Assessing temperature mediation of PFAS impacts on coastal fish fitness to inform environmental management*

PI: **Maria Rodgers** (Bolnick lab postdoc, soon to start as an Assistant Prof at NC State Marine lab)

co-PIs: **Dan Bolnick**, Jessica Brandt (NRE), Kat Milligan-McClellan (MCB), Milton Levin (Pathobiology)

Congratulations to all!

Publications

Pilowsky, J. A., **R. K. Colwell**, C. Rahbek, and D. A. Fordham. 2022. Process-explicit models reveal the structure and dynamics of biodiversity patterns. *Science advances* 8:eabj2271

Cowell, R. K., and A. Chao. 2022. Measuring and comparing class diversity in archaeological assemblages: A brief guide to the history and state-of-the-art in diversity statistics, Pages 263-294 in M. I. Eren, and B. Buchanan, eds. *Defining and measuring diversity in archaeology*. New York, Berghahn.

Poore, Stuart, Rennison, Roesti, Hendry, **Bolnick** and Peichel 2022. Repeated genetic divergence plays a minor role in repeated phenotypic divergence of lake-stream stickleback.

<https://academic.oup.com/evolut/advance-article-abstract/doi/10.1093/evolut/qpac025/6871035>

Bolnick, Hund, Nosil, Peng, Ravinet, Stankowski, **Subramanian**, Wolf, and

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[article/doi/10.1093/evolut/qpac004/6873139](https://doi.org/10.1093/evolut/qpac004/6873139)

Roesti, Groh, Blain, Huss, Rassias, **Bolnick**, Stuart, Peichel, Schluter. 2022.
Species divergence under competition and shared predation.

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/ele.14138>

Accomplishments

Congratulations to **Vidya Vuruputoor** for passing her General Exam!

In February, **Dr. Clifton** will be moving to the University of New Hampshire for a postdoc position researching parasitoid wasps in the lab of Jeff Garnas. This was one of three postdoc positions she was offered, and she is particularly excited about the opportunity to collaborate with USDA researchers in this position. Congratulations!

Please congratulate **Dr. Lisa Terlova**, who passed her PhD defense!

Congratulations to **Swapna Subramanian** for passing her Qualifying Exam.

Reminders

Dr. Schultz is coordinating a group-learning version of the EEB honors thesis course. Students who participate in this have weekly engagement in thesis writing and peer review of writing, which yields a higher-quality thesis (and poster and oral presentation). Students should/plan to be enrolled in EEB 4896W; reach out to Dr. Schultz if you are interested

Dr. Elphick is teaching EEB 5370, with a focus on restoration ecology. If you are interested in taking the course and have not yet signed up, please do so as soon as possible, and please fill out the poll below as he would like to finalize the class time in the next few days:

<https://doodle.com/meeting/participate/id/eVAwV95d>

Opportunities

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applications for the 2023 Emerging Public Policy Leadership Award. This award recognizes graduate students in the biological sciences who are demonstrating an interest and aptitude for working at the intersection of science and policy. Applications are due by 05:00 PM Eastern Time on January 18, 2023. [To learn more and find out how to apply, visit their website.](#)

NMFS-Sea Grant Joint Fellowship Program 2023: The application period for 2023 fellowships is now open! Available to U.S. citizens who are graduate students enrolled in or provisionally accepted to Ph.D. degree programs in academic institutions in the United States and its territories. [Click here to learn more and find out how to apply.](#)

Rhodes College is hiring! There is a **tenure track job opening** in the Department of Biology at Rhodes College in Memphis TN. Expertise in conservation, ecology, and/or environmental science would be appropriate. Rhodes is a unique institution where NSF/NIH funded labs are heavily engaged with undergraduate researchers. If you are interested [click this link to apply!](#)

2023 Woods Hole PEP applications are now open! PEP is a 10-week summer internship in Woods Hole for undergraduate students. PEP is a collaboration of the six scientific institutions in Woods Hole, and our goal is to be a diverse and inclusive internship. We recruit students of all STEM disciplines, and those who can relate their interests to marine/ocean sciences (science communication, microbiology, etc). We encourage underrepresented students to apply, including first generation and those from community college. [Click here for the link to the online portal and more details!](#)

Applications are now open for the [Harvard Forest Summer Research Program](#) in Ecology! Each summer, this immersive 11-week research experience hosts approximately 20 undergraduate students who live at Harvard Forest and conduct site-based research at the forefront of ecology under the mentorship of an affiliated scientist. Next year, the program will run from May 22 – August 4, 2023. All students who are U.S. citizens or international students who are currently studying at a U.S. institution are welcome to apply. There's a \$6,600 stipend, plus full room & board, and travel to/from Harvard Forest. Applications are currently open and [more information can be found here](#). The deadline is February 3rd, 2023 9am EST.

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cohort of Fellows. Graduate students pursuing a master's degree or doctorate are eligible for the Conservation Connect Fellowship. Students must be enrolled in a graduate program during the 2023-2024 academic year. They are looking for students with interest and academic experience in collaborative process and natural resource conflict resolution and on-the-ground science applications. They will also consider applicants with an interest in nonprofit administration, law, grants administration, communications, or marketing. Please note that this is not a research fellowship; further, between trainings, orientation, and the practicum, each fellow can expect to work 360 hours. Exact dates of practicum work will vary by project; for more information, [click here](#).

COVID-19 Resources

[UConn EEB](#)[@eeb.greenhouse](#)[@uconneeb](#)[@eeb.greenhouse](#)[@UConnBRC](#)

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