

Biology Seminar

12:30 - 1:30 pm
Friday, November 9, 2018
BGS 0153



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The evolution of complex courtship traits: covariation and interactions between hummingbird displays, plumage, and color appearance

Animals have evolved a diversity of signaling traits, and in some species, they co-occur and are used simultaneously to communicate. Although much work has been done to understand why animals possess multiple signals, studies do not typically address the role of inter-signal interactions, which may vary intra- and inter-specifically and help drive the evolutionary diversity in signals. I tested how angle-dependent structural coloration, courtship displays, and the display environment interact and co-evolved in hummingbird species from the "bee" tribe (Mellisugini). Most "bee" hummingbird species possess an angle-dependent structurally colored throat patch and stereotyped courtship (shuttle) display. For 6 U.S. "bee" hummingbird species, I filmed male shuttle displays and mapped out the orientation- and position-specific movements during the displays

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