

Biology Seminar



12:30 - 1:30 pm
Friday, November 21, 2025
BGS 0165



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Environmental influences on sex differences in insects

The environmental stresses and conditions that species experience drive the evolution of their morphology, life history and behaviour. These responses often vary between males and females as each seeks to optimise their own fitness. Using multiple insect systems, we show that sexually dimorphic responses to the environment can also feedback to influence ecology. I will share recent work from my lab regarding (1) shifts in mosquito (Culicidae) sex ratios in response to pollution, (2) how early life history sexual dimorphism can carry-over to affect adult dragonflies (Libellulidae) and (3) the effect of environmental change on prey item (nuptial gift) availability and mating system responses in dance flies (Empididae).