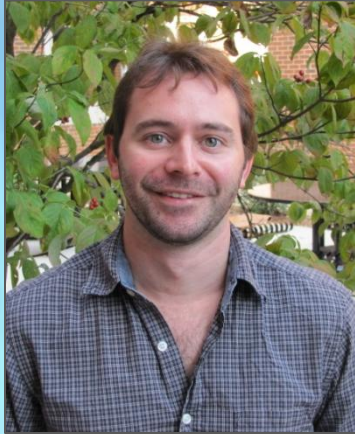




NIMBioS

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NIMBioS Interdisciplinary Seminar

Dr. Ryan Martin
NIMBioS Postdoctoral Fellow

3:30 p.m.*, Tuesday, March 19, 2013

***Hallam Auditorium, Room 206
Claxton Education Building, 1122 Volunteer Blvd.***

“Ecological causes of phenotypic selection and divergence”

The concept of natural selection provides a powerful explanation for both the fit between organisms and their environment and for the origins of biological diversity. However, while natural selection describes the process that leads to adaptive evolution, it is not the cause. The causes (or “agents”) of selection are those environmental conditions and ecological interactions that produce differential fitness between individuals. Agents of selection are often unidentified, and knowledge of their relative importance, how they interact, and if they differ in the form or magnitude of selection and evolution they cause is lacking. In this talk, I present several approaches for addressing this issue. First, I describe how resource competition causes disruptive selection favoring alternative resource specialist morphs in spadefoot toad tadpoles (*Spea multiplicata*), and how the strength of selection is spatially variable. Next, I describe how variation between populations in multiple, interacting environmental parameters causes evolutionary divergence in a complex trait, male coloration, in the Bahamas mosquitofish (*Gambusia hubbsi*). Finally, to explore patterns of natural selection and their causes across a broad range of taxa, I present preliminary results from a synthetic analysis of experimental studies manipulating ecological and environmental parameters to explore their effects on fitness.

****Join us for refreshments at 3 p.m. *in the 1st floor visitor breakroom.***

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The National Institute for Mathematical and Biological Synthesis (NIMBioS) brings together researchers from around the world to collaborate across disciplinary boundaries to investigate solutions to basic and applied problems in the life sciences. NIMBioS is sponsored by the National Science Foundation, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture with additional support from The University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

