

Think Spatial

The UCSB brown-bag forum on spatial thinking

Presents

Katja Seltmann

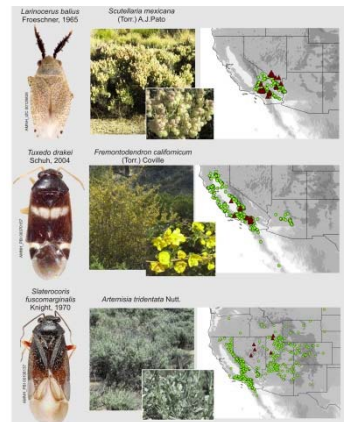
Cheadle Center for Biodiversity and Ecological Restoration (CCBER)
University of California, Santa Barbara

The Informative Bug: A Case Study Defining Areas of Endemism using North American Insects

Tuesday, October 18, 2016
12:00 p.m.

3512 Phelps Hall

ABSTRACT: It is difficult to study insects—identification can be challenging and many require microscopic examination. Seltmann will demonstrate that large quantities of data about insects and their habitats are already available through efforts to digitally capture specimen data from natural history collections. Many specimens have high-quality locality data. Seltmann recently used 1,399 insect species to define areas of endemism for North America (i.e., areas defined by the congruent distribution of species). Results were compared to a similar study using mammals, finding that insects are an excellent group to study in this context: They combine high species diversity, a history of modern taxonomic revisions, comprehensive electronic data capture, and often small distribution ranges.



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perspectives for teaching and research