



The School of Life Sciences

invites you to a seminar entitled:

*Community ecology of small mammals in the
21st Century: Trends and prospects*

presented by

Dr. Corrie Schoeman

(School of Life Sciences, UKZN)

When

- Wednesday, 29 July 2015
- 12:20

Where

- Seminar Rooms
- Life Sciences Building, South Ring Rd, Westville Campus
- Coordinates: -29.817482,30.940305

Enquiries

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Corrie Schoeman (29 July 2015)

Community ecology of small mammals in the 21st Century: Trends and prospects

The seminar

Community ecology investigates the set of species co-occurring at a given time and place, their origins, and their ecological and evolutionary consequences. Given the rate of habitat destruction world wide, understanding how communities assemble and the factors that influence their dynamics will prove critical to managing and restoring small mammal biodiversity. The increasing availability of phylogenetic and broad-scale environmental data, as well as computing power has helped to reveal the multitude of processes driving community assembly, particularly within macroecological and evolutionary ecology frameworks. In this presentation I will review previous and ongoing research in my lab on patterns and processes of African and Malagasy bat diversity at various spatio-temporal scales, and argue that mechanistic insights into bat community structure and dynamics can be obtained by explicitly incorporating information regarding phylogenetic relatedness, and Grinnellian and Eltonian niches of species. These methods also hold the promise to provide a framework for identifying the species most vulnerable to habitat loss and climate change, and those more likely to maintain gene flow across fragmented landscapes, and persist, despite rapid environmental change.

Presenter Biography

First Corrie Schoeman studied Law and Economics at WITS. After completing his national service, he spent 5 years in South-East Asia teaching English and travelling widely. He returned to South Africa to study Zoology at the University of Cape Town and completed his PhD in 2006. He joined UKZN as an academic in 2007. He has authored ~ 40 journal articles, three book chapters and 2 books, including *Bats of Central and Southern Africa: a Biogeographic and Taxonomic Synthesis*. He has worked on small mammals and insects in Africa, Madagascar, South-East Asia, and Central America. He is currently Senior Lecturer of Terrestrial Ecology at UKZN, and vice-president of the Zoological Society of southern Africa. His research interests include evolutionary biology, ecology and biogeography.