



QSB SEMINAR SERIES 291

Disentangling Proximate and Evolutionary Mechanisms of Sexual Dimorphism

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ABSTRACT

Sexual size dimorphism is one of the most ubiquitous forms of intraspecific variation found in nature. Size differences between females and males are often extreme to the point of having profound implications for the ecology of these species. Using an integrative approach that combines behavioral ecology, physiology, and evolutionary biology, my research focuses on understanding how and why do extreme phenotypic differences evolve between females and males and what is the role played by environmental factors on the expression of such dimorphism. I will discuss how to disentangle proximate and evolutionary drivers of sexual dimorphism, presenting results from my research on crab spiders (Thomisidae) and lizards (Phrynosomatinae).

BIO:

Marie Claire Chelini is currently a University of California President's Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of California Merced, in Dr. Dan Edwards' lab. She is an integrative organismal biologist studying the evolution and expression of sexual dimorphism. Her research focuses on how and why extreme phenotypic differences evolve between females and males, and what is the role played by environmental factors, such as temperature, on the expression of such dimorphism. To address these topics, Marie Chelini's research integrates behavioral ecology, evolutionary biology and developmental physiology.

