

Ants of the **Rainbow**: locked-down perspectives on ant functional biogeography

Date 12th Nov (Fri.)

Time 16:00 (UTC+8)

Venue Zoom only



You can also email us to require the Zoom link
(check SBS website → NEWS & EVENTS)

Animals come in a rainbow of colours. Colour influences their ability to hide, to advertise their toxicity, to find mates, and to exploit the most favourable conditions of their environments. As well as these variable functions, colour has a geography. The changing conditions of our planet call for varying colour-based strategies. In this seminar I will explore the geography of colour for the most dominant insect group on our planet, the ants. Contrary to popular opinion, ants are not just small and black! They are of the rainbow, and this fact has implications for where they live today, and for where they might live in the future. I will present data collected by my collaborators and I from across the globe: we will visit the Andes, the African savannah, the canopies of Borneo, the internet, and everywhere in between to place ant colouration in an evolutionary and ecological context.

All are welcome!



Tom is an ecologist interested in using morphology and physiology to understand the distribution of biodiversity, particularly that of the ants. His work uses lab, field, and computational approaches to describe and explain how global biodiversity is generated and maintained. Specifically, his work combines detailed information on the lifestyles of individual species with large-scale data on their geographic distributions to answer his research questions. Consequently, his work spans the fields of functional trait ecology, macroecology, and macrophysiology. After studying in the UK and undertaking research fellowships in Pretoria and Liverpool, Tom is now a Lecturer in ecology and zoology at Cardiff University, UK.