



The University of Hong Kong
School of Biological Sciences

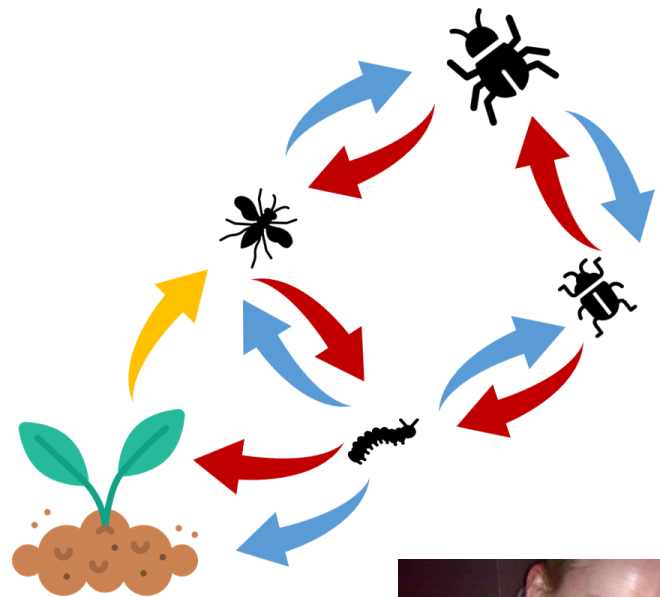
**Public
Seminar**

Insect food webs across environmental gradients

Date: 26th September 2023

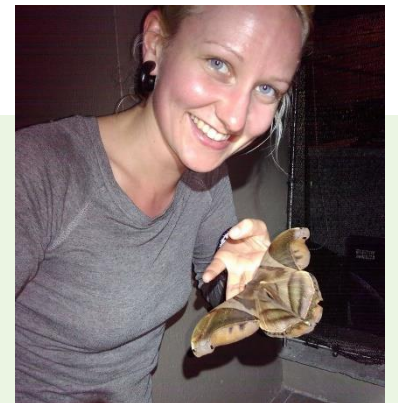
Time: 1000

Venue: 6N-11 KBSB



About the speaker:

Brinna Barlow is a PhD candidate in the Biodiversity and Environmental Change lab. Her research focusses on how tropical insect food webs are impacted by environmental change across elevation, succession and between the canopy and understorey.



Abstract:

Insects comprise the vast majority of global biodiversity, carry out important ecosystem functions, and are impacted by environmental change. We are currently experiencing accelerating environmental change, which will affect insect food web interactions. Ecologists have studied insects across environmental gradients to try to understand their response to environmental change, which has implications for ecosystem functioning under future climate change and forest regeneration. The relative importance of how different components of insect communities change across environmental gradients has not been resolved. A clear understanding of how insect biodiversity and trophic interactions respond to environmental gradients is necessary to predict changes in ecosystem health and functioning following environmental change. In this thesis, I collected ecological data across elevational, vertical and forest age gradients to address questions concerning the community composition and trophic dynamics of insect food webs across environmental gradients. Predicting future structure and function of insect food webs will be difficult and must be nuanced and grounded in robust understanding of insect community interactions and ecology. This has implications for understanding insect communities under climate change, and restoration and conservation management.