

GENOMIC BIOGEOGRAPHY OF THE ICONIC SULPHUR-CRESTED COCKATOO WITH INSIGHTS FOR CONSERVATION

Date Oct. 6 (Fri.)

Time 16:00 (UTC+8)

Venue 3N01 & Zoom



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

Abstract

The Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, *Cacatua galerita*, is CITES II listed and one of the world's most recognisable parrots. A symbol of Australia, four morphologically diagnosed subspecies are currently recognised based on traditional taxonomy (*C. g. galerita*, *C. g. triton*, *C. g. eleonora* and *C. g. fitzroyi*). While some subspecies or populations are showing population expansions in recent years, others are in decline. Surprisingly, little is known about the intraspecific systematics and diversity in the species: A modern detailed revision (even morphological), based on wild populations has virtually been neglected for over 50 years – information that is vital to identifying evolutionarily significant units and directing conservationists to points of priority or illuminating conservation doorways. We used whole-genome resequencing data to investigate patterns of differentiation across *C. galerita*'s range to provide a modern assessment of its subspecies distributions and evolutionary affinities to help inform conservation strategies.



Dr Arthur Sands is a postdoctoral fellow in the Merilä Lab. He graduated with a BSc & MSc from the University of Stellenbosch, South Africa and a PhD from Justus Liebig University, Germany. A member of both the Royal Society of South Africa and Society for Conservation Biology, he applies over 8 years research experience in molecular ecology to answer phylogeographical and taxonomical questions of interest to conservationists and biogeographers alike. He currently works on several projects in the Merilä Lab but is primarily focused on avian research.

All are welcome!