



# BIOSPHERE

## The Weekly Bulletin of Biology

Biology Colloquium: Friday, 4 November 2011, 2:00 pm in CR 5125

### “Plants on Steroids”

Steven Huber, Ph.D.

Department of Biology, University of Illinois

### New Major Funding – Ocean pH

The National Science Foundation’s *Biological Oceanography* program recently funded **Drs. Robert Carpenter** and **Peter Edmunds** to work on the effects of ocean acidification on coral reefs in Moorea, French Polynesia. This award of \$2,000,000 will be used to understand the effects of climate change on physiological function and thence ecological distribution. The first major field effort is underway, and the first students supported by this project have started their research.

### Science Fair Projects Galore

The latest volume of the *New Journal of Student Research Abstracts* has been published. **Dr. Steve Oppenheimer** has edited the series since its inception 16 years ago, and the total number of abstracts is now in the thousands. The abstracts summarize projects that were done by K–12 students. If you are a parent or K–12 teacher who wants a copy of this year’s volume, email [Oppenheimer](mailto:Oppenheimer); it is free subject to availability. Much of the funding for publication came from the Van Nuys Airport.

### New Course: Biology of Fungi

Attention all students who will have taken Principles of Microbiology before spring semester. **Dr. David Bermudes** will be teaching a new course this spring on a topic not covered at CSUN in more than 20 years. Biology of Fungi and Lab will immerse students in the study of this important, yet poorly appreciated major eukaryote taxon. The course will combine observations of fungi in nature through local field trips with laboratory studies, cultivation, and microscopy. BIOL 496MY/L will be taught MW 9:00 am–12:50 pm. It may be used to fulfill the B.A. requirement for a Systematics/Comparative Biology course. Microbiology B.S. students may use it in their selective program. Students in other options should consult with an advisor.



*Amanita calyptroderma*

## Biologists at the Joint Meeting of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists

The **Allen**, **Espinoza**, and **Steele** labs were well represented at the annual meeting that brings together biologists interested in fishes, amphibians, and reptiles. The following presentations were given:

- **Dr. Mia Adreani**: “Estimating fecundity, spawning frequency and spawning season length of temperate reef fish: a comparison of natural and artificial rocky reefs.”
- **Barbara Sanchez**: “A comparison of growth and fecundity of barred sand bass from polluted and unpolluted sites in southern California.”
- **Dr. Mark Steele**: “A comparison of growth, reproduction, and tissue production of temperate reef fishes on artificial and natural reefs.”
- **Alissa Luken**: “Sprint speed is not altered by diel cycle in a nocturnal gecko: implications for performance studies.”
- **Jason Warner**: “Getting high and chillin’: cold-hardiness of liolaemid lizards living along an elevational gradient.”
- **Denita Weeks**: “When warmer isn’t better: subzero tolerances and performance eurythermy for the world’s southernmost gecko.”
- **Beck Wehrle**: “Eat poop and thrive: testing the role of the lizard lounge on transferring digestive microbes.”

Several of the students claimed checks for various awards: Weeks won First Place for the *Herpetologists’ League Graduate Research Award*. Her prize was \$500 + 10 years of back issues of the journal *Herpetologica* and a special invitation to submit the research based on her talk as the lead paper to *Herpetologica* or *Herpetological Monographs*. Warner received a *Student Travel Grant* from the Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles (\$400). Wehrle received a *Gaige Fund Award*, from the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists (\$500)

and a *Grant in Herpetology* from the Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles (\$500).

## An *in* with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Past students have worked for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service while they were students, and then gone on to careers in the agency. There is an opening in the Ventura office now, in the Student Career Experience Program ([SCEP](#)). Submit a cover letter, résumé, and unofficial transcript to [Deborah Eidson](#) by November 18<sup>th</sup>. In the letter, identify your academic major, class standing, and career intentions (e.g., Environmental Biology B.S., 2 years from graduation, desire to keep rare species from going extinct). To be eligible, you must be enrolled at least half time and be at least a year away from graduation. The position will focus on endangered species. It requires a time commitment of at least 640 hours. Working schedules can be flexible during the school year, with the expectation of at least 12 hours per week, with increased working hours during school breaks. Upon successful completion of the program, the SCEP student is eligible for non-competitive conversion to a full-time position within the federal government, although a position within the Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office is not guaranteed.

### *Biosphere: The Weekly Bulletin of Biology*

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