

Department *of* Biological Sciences

Biodiversity and Ecology Journal Club
Seminar Announcement



Chironomidae (non-biting midges): LECTURE AND WORKSHOP

Peter Cranston

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Lecture

Reconciling named adults with the more ecologically important immature Chironomidae (Diptera)

Date: **Mon, 16th March 2009**

Time: 10am – 11am

Venue: DBS Conference Room

Host: Dr. Esther Clews

The midges (family Chironomidae) are ubiquitous as larvae in all kinds of freshwaters, and their aerial adults are well known to those that live by lakes and rivers, including to fly fishers who model their lures on ascending pupae and spent adults. The biology and ecology of the more than 6,000 species of midges was summarised in Armitage et al. (1994). Challenging phylogenetic and biogeographically patterns are evident, especially pertaining to the southern hemisphere. Demand is high for identifications of the immature stages inevitably encountered by those engaged in the 'industry' of biological water quality monitoring, and in historical climate reconstruction studies based on subfossil larval head capsules. However classical taxonomy has, and continues, to depend upon the adult male – such that time-consuming rearing programs have been required to associate these named midges with their immatures. Molecular techniques make associations easier, and encourage more complete incorporation of all life stages into descriptive work, and, with photographic images, into 'user-friendly' identification manuals. Examples of all the above will be discussed and illustrated.

Workshop on Chironomid Identification.

The workshop is an introduction to the Chironomidae (non-biting midges). Prof. Cranston's course will demonstrate chironomid identification using his "Lucid" interactive key.

Date: **Mon-Tues, 16th -17th March 2009**

Time: 11am-6pm Monday, 10am-6pm Tuesday.

Venue: Lab 7

Host: Dr. Esther Clews

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND THE WORKSHOP, PLEASE CONTACT DR CLEWS DIRECTLY TO BOOK A PLACE (DBSEC@NUS.EDU.SG).