



# VIRTUAL BIOLOGY COLLOQUIUM

Friday, 23 Oct 2020 | 4pm | Online Zoom Session

Hosted by Dr John Ascher

## Species Delimitation & Interaction - A Story about the XinGang Mts.



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The Xingang Mts. are an ideal living laboratory for studying subtropical ecology via the large-scale BEF-China Tree Diversity Experiment. CD's Lab is working there to study functional arthropod groups and species interaction networks. It's been a big challenge to delimit the large number of insect species sampled from the Mts, which cover pollinator insects, predatory spiders, herbivorous insects, etc. represented in collections at different life stages. The basic questions to answer – How many species are there at XinGang Mts and how do they interact?

This talk presents recent progress on species delimitation using novel protocols of integrative taxonomy for large data sets. These have been also used to quantify the species interaction networks at XinGang Mts. In addition, the lab is utilizing next generation sequencing and Micro-CT technologies to understand arthropod microbe and functional traits. Here, they are collaborating with other non-entomologists to figure out the ecological effects of tree species diversity gradients on different functional arthropod groups.

### About the Speaker

Chao-Dong Zhu, Full Professor, advisors of Postdoc, Ph.D. and M.S. candidates. Leader of the Research Group of Evolutionary Biology of Functional Insects, Deputy Chief of the Key Laboratory of Zoological Systematics and Evolution, Institute of Zoology (IOZ), Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS). Research interests include molecular taxonomy, species delimitation based on the phylogenetics and species interactions, which involving the pollinators, herbivores, predators and parasitoids etc. He has been supported by the National Science Fund as Distinguished Young Scholar since 2017. In recent years, the study results from his group were mainly published on the journal of Systematic Biology, Molecular Ecology, Journal of Ecology, and Methods in Ecology and Evolution.

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