



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEDIA ADVISORY

Ecology and Biodiversity Science Experts for Press Contacts

Scientists at the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia, the oldest natural history museum in the Americas, are experts in their fields, from watershed ecology issues to biodiversity, evolution and systematics. The scientists have broad knowledge of their subjects and detailed knowledge of their specialty.

Reporters are welcome to interview the scientists below for stories about their research and related issues in the news. Interviews may be conducted in person, by e-mail, by phone, or by SKYPE. To arrange an interview, contact Carolyn Belardo, Communications, at belardo@ansp.org, or 215 299-1043.

This list is posted in our online Press Room, ansp.org/press, with additional information.

Watershed and Ecology Issues

The Academy's Patrick Center for Environmental Research is dedicated to understanding, protecting and restoring the health of watersheds.

David Velinsky, Ph.D.

Vice President, Patrick Center for Environmental Research

Expertise: Fate and transport of chemical and other contaminants in water systems, especially in estuaries near urban centers.

Donald Charles, Ph.D.

Senior Scientist, Phycology

Expertise: Ecology of freshwater diatoms and their use as indicators to assess current and past environmental conditions.

Richard Horwitz, Ph.D.

Ruth Patrick Chair and Senior Scientist, Fisheries

Expertise: Reproductive ecology, life history and distribution of freshwater fishes; effects of land use on species.

Jerry Mead, Ph.D.

Assistant Scientist and Section Leader, Watershed and Systems Ecology

Expertise: Aquatic ecology and ecological and biophysical economics.

Tracy Elsey Quirk, Ph.D.

Ruth Patrick Scholar

Expertise: Effects of climate change on coastal ecosystems; wetlands ecology.

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Marina Potapova, Ph.D.
Assistant Curator of Diatoms

Expertise: Ecology and taxonomy of freshwater diatoms and their use to monitor human impacts.

Ling Ren, Ph.D.
Research Scientist

Expertise: Nutrient dynamics and their enrichment on water quality issues; human impacts on phytoplankton growth and harmful algal blooms in estuaries and coastal ecosystems.

Barbara Rinkel, Ph.D.
Research Scientist

Expertise: Ecology and taxonomy of soft bodied freshwater algae; marine green algae.

Mihaela Enache, Ph.D.
Research Scientist

Expertise: Assessing human impacts on ecosystems by using biogeochemical indicators preserved in sediments from lakes and wetlands.

Biodiversity, Evolution and Systematics Issues

The foundation of this scientific work is the Academy's collection of more than 17 million plant and animal specimens used by researchers around the world.

Fossils of extinct animals

The Vertebrate Paleontology collection of about 23,000 specimens includes the first North American dinosaurs and fossils that belonged to Thomas Jefferson, Joseph Leidy and Edward Drinker Cope.

Edward Daeschler, Ph.D.
Vice President, Center for Systematic Biology and Library; Chair and Associate Curator, Vertebrate Paleontology

Expertise: Collecting and describing fossils, especially Late Devonian and including *Tiktaalik roseae*.

Jason Downs, Ph.D.
Research Associate

Expertise: Use of microscopic surfaces to understand early evolution of vertebrate skeletons.

Ned Gilmore
Collection Manager, Vertebrate Paleontology

Expertise: Late Cretaceous and Early Tertiary fossils of eastern North America.

Fish

The Ichthyology Collection of more than 1.4 million specimens is the oldest in the U.S. and is designated as an International Resource Center by the National Science Foundation.

John Lundberg, Ph.D.
Curator and Chaplin Chair, Ichthyology

Expertise: Biogeography, vertebrate morphology and paleobiology of fish, especially from South America. Co-principal of the global All Catfish Species Inventory.

Mark Henry Sabaj Perez, Ph.D.
Collection Manager, Ichthyology

Expertise: Catfishes, South American rivers and fishes, taxonomy and evolution. Co-principal of the global All Catfish Species Inventory.

Katriina Ilves, Ph.D.
Chaplin Post Doctoral Scientist

Expertise: Biogeography, phylogeography, and molecular systematics of north temperate and Caribbean fishes.

Insects

The Entomology Collection of about 4 million specimens is the best in the world for Orthoptera and related insect orders (grasshoppers, katydids, crickets, roaches, mantids, and walking sticks). It is one of the best for apterygotes (primitively wingless soil insects), some fly groups (aquatic midges, crane flies, shore flies) and bees and wasps. Includes one of the oldest North American insect collections (Titian Peale Butterfly and Moth Collection) dating to the 1820s.

Jon Gelhaus, Ph.D.
Curator, Entomology

Expertise: Systematics and ecology of worldwide crane flies. Leader of the Mongolian Aquatic Insect Survey, including water quality research in Mongolia. Co-leader of New Jersey Pinelands (Pine Barrens) insect survey.

Jason Weintraub
Collection Manager, Entomology

Expertise: Biogeography, ecology and evolution of worldwide butterflies and moths.

Greg Cowper
Curatorial Assistant, Entomology

Expertise: Systematics, evolution and biogeography of Heteroptera, the True Bugs; history of entomology.

Mollusks

The Malacology Collection of about 10 million specimens is the third largest in the world and the oldest in the Americas.

Gary Rosenberg, Ph.D.
Pilsbry Chair and Curator, Malacology

Expertise: Origin and magnitude of mollusk species diversity, identification of seashells worldwide, evolution of land snails in Jamaica.

Paul Callomon
Collection Manager, Malacology

Expertise: Mollusks in general, specifically mollusks of Japan and its region; history of molluscan studies in Asia.

Birds

The Ornithology Collection of more than 213,000 specimens is the second oldest in the U.S. and the best in the world for birds of the Andes Mountains, South America.

Nate Rice, Ph.D.

Collection Manager, Ornithology

Expertise: Evolutionary biology of neotropical bird groups, especially antbirds and their relatives.

Doug Wechsler

Director, Visual Resources in Ornithology (VIREO)

Expertise: General naturalist. Photographs and maintains one of the world's most comprehensive collections of bird images.

Plants

The Botany Collection of more than 1.5 million specimens is the oldest in the Americas.

Tatyana Livshultz, Ph.D.

Assistant Curator, Botany

Expertise: Evolution and pollination of plants, especially the milkweed and dogbane family.

Rick McCourt, Ph.D.

Associate Curator, Botany

Expertise: Evolution and systematic of green algae.

Alina Freire-Fierro, M.S.

Collection Manager, Botany

Expertise: Neotropical plants, in particular the family *Polygalaceae*.

Alfred E. Schuyler, Ph.D.

Curator Emeritus, Botany

Expertise: Systematics and ecology of rare plant species, relationships between plant diversity and environmental quality, and history of botany.

John Hall, Ph.D.

Post-doctoral Fellow

Expertise: Evolution and systematics of green algae.

Mammals

The Mammalogy Collection of about 23,500 specimens is particularly strong in rodents, bovids, great apes and neotropical cats.

Edward Daeschler, Ph.D.

Vice President, Center for Systematic Biology and Library; Chair and Associate Curator, Vertebrate Paleontology

Expertise: Collecting and describing fossils, especially Late Devonian.

Ned Gilmore

Collection Manager, Mammalogy

Expertise: Mammals of Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware.

Reptiles and Amphibians

The Herpetology Collection of about 38,000 specimens is strong in early animals from the Americas.

Ned Gilmore

Collection Manager, Herpetology

Expertise: Eastern North American reptiles and amphibians.

Diatoms

The Diatom Herbarium includes about 220,000 diatom slides and 20,000 samples. It is one of the two largest in the world.

Marina Potapova, Ph.D.

Assistant Curator of Diatoms

Expertise: Ecology and taxonomy of freshwater diatoms and their use to monitor human impacts.

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Founded in 1812, the Academy of Natural Sciences is America's oldest natural history museum and a world leader in biodiversity and environmental research. For nearly 200 years, the Academy has carried out its mission to encourage and cultivate the sciences, exploring the remarkable diversity of our natural world and sharing these discoveries with the public through innovative exhibits, publications, and educational programming.

HOURS: Monday–Friday, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Saturday–Sunday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. ADMISSION: \$12 adults; \$10 children 3-12, seniors, college students, military personnel; free for members and children under 3. \$2 fee for "Butterflies!" PHONE: 215-299-1000.