

RESEARCH

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PROJECT 6.1
Rainforest Ecology and Evolution
Project Leader: David Westcott (CSIRO)

Successful, long term, and sustainable management of rainforests and rainforest landscapes requires the making of decisions based on a sound understanding of the evolutionary dynamics and ecological functioning of these ecosystems.

The research conducted in Project 6.1 addresses a variety of questions relating to both rainforest evolution and function. Both applied and theoretical research questions are represented in the portfolio, however all projects seek to improve our management of rainforest ecosystems by describing the evolutionary and ecological context in which management must be implemented.

POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS

Sandra ABELL (JCU) PhD

The ecology of Hypogeous Fungi, principle food resource of the endangered species Bettongia tropica, along a wet to dry gradient of sclerophyll forest
 Alexander ANDERSON (JCU) Hons

The impacts of Pleistocene rainforest fluctuations on population structure and genetic diversity in Wet Tropics vertebrates: a comparison of two species with contrasting vagility, the Grey headed robin (Heteromyias albisperularis) and the Ornate nursery frog (Cophixalus ornatus)
 Karen BELL (UQ) PhD

Molecular ecology of Scarabaeinae beetles

Ainsley CALLADINE (JCU) PhD

Evolution and biogeography of the Australian Loranthaceae

Karen COOMBES (JCU) PhD

Will Lumholtz's tree kangaroos, Dendrolagus lumholtzi (Marsupialia: Macropodidae), survive the long term fragmentation of forests on the Atherton Tablelands?

Simon FEARN (JCU) Masters

The biology and behavioural ecology of a top Wet Tropics predator, the scrub python Morelia amethistina

Paul FERRARO (JCU) Masters

Taxonomic status and population structure of the Mahogany Glider

- Mary GANDINI (JCU) Masters
Evolution of mountain top flora using taxonomic status and population biology of Rhododendron lochiaie as a pilot study
- Brett GOODMAN (JCU) PhD
Ecomorphology, microhabitat occupation and life history traits of Eugongylus skinks
- Mark HARRINGTON (JCU) PhD
Understanding the origins of Australian flora: plant adaptation and evolution in increasingly arid environments
- James HILL (JCU) PhD
Mechanisms that promote plant species coexistence within the tropical rainforests of north Queensland
- Conrad HOSKINS (JCU) PhD
The roles of historical isolation and ecological gradients in generating reproductive isolation in the Wet Tropics
- Lynne JONES (JCU) Masters
Genetic structuring within disjunct populations of Idiospermum australiense
- Liana JOSEPH (UQ) PhD
Effective monitoring and management of rare and threatened birds of Australian tropical and sub-tropical forests
- Matthew MARRINAN (JCU) Hons
Persistence as an effective regeneration strategy in rainforests after disturbance
- Adnan MOUSALLI (UQ) PhD
Surrogates and distribution of biodiversity in wet forests of south-east Queensland
- Matthew PYE (JCU) PhD
Genetic structuring of conifers in eastern Australia: rainforest refugia and population dynamics
- Luke SHOO (GU) PhD
Comparative abundance and distribution of rainforest vertebrates along altitudinal gradients within the WHA of north Queensland
- Ellen WEBER (JCU) PhD
Comparison of rare and common Xanthostemon in the Wet Tropics
- Yvette WILLIAMS (JCU) PhD
Determinants of rarity in microhylid frogs

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