



Two PhD projects available at Monash University from 2012

Two PhD projects will be offered from 2012 in the Evolutionary & Invasion Biology research group at Monash University (<http://www.biolsci.monash.edu.au/staff/chapple/>).

The two projects are part of a long-term research project on the invasion dynamics of the delicate skink, *Lampropholis delicata*. The delicate skink is native to eastern Australia, but has successfully invaded several regions of the Pacific (New Zealand, Hawaiian Islands, Lord Howe Island). Previous research in the group has used molecular markers to identify the source population(s) for each introduction, examined post-introduction molecular and morphological evolution, and investigated the behavioural traits that enhance the likelihood of human-assisted dispersal.

Project 1: The role of behaviour and behavioural syndromes in the invasion success of the delicate skink: Recent research has indicated that particular behavioural traits, or suites of correlated traits (behavioural syndromes), may enhance the success of introduced species at particular stages of the invasion process. The project will use a series of field and laboratory-based studies to investigate the role of behaviour in the success of the delicate skink as an invasive species. The project will be co-supervised by Dr Bob Wong (Monash University).

Project 2: Evolutionary ecology and climatic adaptation of invasive delicate skink populations: This project will involve a series of field and laboratory-based experiments to investigate climatic adaptation in *Lampropholis* and the invasive populations of the delicate skink. The study will examine populations across both the native and introduced range. It will also examine the behavioural interactions in the introduced range among individuals from genetically divergent source populations (i.e admixture). The project will be co-supervised by Prof Mike Thompson (University of Sydney).

Interested students should email their CV (including details of two academic referees), academic record, and research interests to Dr David Chapple (David.Chapple@monash.edu, Ph: 03 9905 3015) by **Monday 3rd October**. For each project, one applicant will be selected to complete and submit an online PhD scholarship application by the 31st October deadline (a mid-year scholarship round [31st May] may be available for highly-qualified students who are unable to make the October deadline).

Students will need to successfully obtain a PhD scholarship. Australian and New Zealand citizens can apply for an Australian Postgraduate Award (APA) or Monash Graduate Scholarship (MGS). International students can apply for an IPRS or Monash Graduate Scholarship. For further information regarding PhD entry requirements see: <http://www.mrgs.monash.edu.au/scholarships/apply/>

Cheers

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