TROPILUNCH

The origin and evolution of the Neotropical Biota: Implications for science outreach and biodiversity conservation

Dr. Lúcia Lohmann - Faculty (USP - Brazil)

TUE, APR 23

12:45 - 1:45

Grinter 376

Tropilunch is a weekly seminar run by graduate students from the Tropical Conservation and Development (TCD) Program. It provides a forum for a range of discussions and presentations related to TCD work and research. Special guests, visiting scholars and practitioners also participate. It happens every Tuesday @ 12:45 – 1:45 p.m. in Grinter Hall, Room 376.

Tropilunch presentations are recorded and posted weekly on TCD's YouTube Channel.

BIO

Lúcia Lohmann is a Professor in the Botany Department of the University of São Paulo (USP, Brazil) and is currently a Visiting Professor at the Department of Integrative Biology at the University of California, Berkeley (USA). Her primary research interest is to understand patterns of plant diversification and biogeography in the tropics, and to apply this information to the conservation of tropical biodiversity and ecosystems. Her research is highly integrative, combining components of systematics, ecology, evolutionary biology, and conservation. She previously served as a Councilor for ATBC, then later as President, and as of January 2019 she took over as the new Executive Director.

PRESENTATION SUMMARY

Few issues have been as intriguing and exciting to scientists as the origin and evolution of the Neotropical Biota. Yet, relatively little is still known about the evolutionary relationships of Neotropical organisms and the factors that have shaped the diversity currently encountered in this region. It is now clear that both evolutionary and ecological factors have played key roles for the assembly of this Biota. Integrative approaches, including information from systematics, ecology, evolution, geology, and climatology, among others, are not just useful but critical for a better understanding of current diversity patterns. Here, I use integrative cross-disciplinary studies to investigate the history of the Neotropical Biota. Finding from this research are then used as basis for science outreach and biodiversity conservation.

TCD Tropical Conservation & Development Program

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