



"Phylogenies
in ecology: is
it helping?"

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With the broad availability of phylogenetic trees, ecologists routinely ask questions about patterns of species relatedness within and among communities. Nonrandom patterns are seen as evidence of specific ecological processes. A common assumption is that phylogenetic distances correspond to the strength of competitive interactions and niche overlap. Recent experiments have cast doubt on this assumption. I will go over five reasons why the assumption is not supported and how it is difficult to separate the biological, statistical and experimental reasons.

Friday, Nov. 14, 2014; Room 307, SERF; 3:30 - 4:30PM. Pre-talk reception: 3:00 PM in Dabney 568