



The Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Fall 2017 Seminar Series

The causes, consequences and maintenance of variation in sex expression in the wild geranium, *Geranium maculatum*

One astonishing characteristic of flowering plants is the tremendous diversity of floral sex expression at both the individual and population levels. Natural populations of gynodioecious species contain both hermaphroditic and female individuals and are a great system for investigating the mechanisms that underlie how such variation is maintained. We have investigated ecological and genetic hypotheses for how females might invade and persist in natural populations of the gynodioecious geranium, *Geranium maculatum*. We integrate data from field observations, population genetic analysis, and controlled experiments to examine the relative importance of natural selection v. s. genetic drift in explaining sex ratio variation across natural populations and the role pollinators may play in the invasion and persistence of females. We also investigate whether this gynodioecious breeding system is likely to remain stable or if it will evolve into either hermaphroditism or dioecy.

Join us in welcoming Dr. Shu-Mei Chang
University of Georgia

Friday, November 17, 2017
SERF 307 - 3:30 PM

Pre-talk Reception 3:00 PM in Dabney 575

