Evolutionary Theory for
CONSTRAINED & DIRECTIONAL EVOLUTION
http://constrained-evo.org
Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research on Innovative Areas
新学術領域　進化の制約と方向性

21th CDE international seminar (Fukatsu ERATO #11; online)

February 25th (Fri), 10:00- (Japan time) [Lang: English]

Prof. Steve Perlman

University of Victoria, Canada

https://www.uvic.ca/science/biology/people/profiles/perlman-steve.php

A tale of two symbionts: Hidden players in interactions between Drosophila and their nematode parasites

Click this URL for registration (free event)
https://www.jst.go.jp/erato/fukatsu/news/2022/220225.html
(Zoom URL will be sent to you based on the registered information)

- Abstract -

Multicellular organisms commonly harbour microbes that protect them against natural enemies, and these defensive symbionts are important players in host-parasite evolution and ecology. On the other hand, natural enemies themselves may employ microbial symbionts that help them to successfully infect hosts; these types of symbioses have generally received less attention than defensive ones.
We have been studying how beneficial microbes affect interactions between Drosophila and their natural enemies. In particular, Drosophila are infected by diverse parasitic nematodes that vary widely in virulence and host specificity. We have found that D. neotestacea, a common N. American woodland species, harbours a maternally inherited bacterial symbiont called Spiroplasma that protects it against the virulent sterilizing nematode, Howardula aoronymphium, and that the benefit conferred by Spiroplasma is so great that symbiont-infected flies have replaced their uninfected counterparts across the continent. Protection appears to involve toxins called ribosome-inactivating proteins (RIPs). Spiroplasma genomes encode a diverse repertoire of RIP toxins, and we speculate that toxin diversity and evolution play an important role in specificity against different enemies. Finally, we have also recently found that Howardula nematodes have themselves recently acquired a bacterial symbiont that is allied with a lineage of plant-pathogenic bacteria, and we speculate on this symbiont's role in infection and nematode fitness.

[Greeting from the chair of this project]
How much has our understanding of biological evolution improved in the past half century? Not even the shape of the tiny insect in front of us now can be satisfactorily explained. My understanding of evolution has not changed much since then. I do not think it's the way it should be. it's good enough. At last, it's time we start doing something to solve the mystery.
Why should the shapes of plants and animals be the way they are? How does purposefulness explain the process of these refinement of shapes? This project aims to construct a new theoretical system of evolutionary biology by not only encompassing natural selection and neutral theories but also integrating essential elements that previous theories failed to address. We hope that this attempt will provide a place for gathering bold challengers, and further leads to a new trend in the field of evolutionary biology.
http://constrained-evo.org/greeting.html

Sponsored by
- ERATO FUKATSU Evolving Symbiosis Project
  https://www.jst.go.jp/erato/fukatsu/

Co-sponsored by
- ERATO NOMURA Microbial Community Control Project
- Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research on Innovative Areas "Post-Koch Ecology"
- Microbiology Research Center for Sustainability (MiCS), University of Tsukuba
- Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research on Innovative Areas "Constrained & Directional Evolution"

For all of you who are interested in Evolutionary Biology
We are happy to announce open, online international seminar provided by the research project "Constrained and Directional Evolution" (led by Dr. Shigeru Kuratani).
The aim of this open seminar is to share and discuss over the challenging topics in evolutionary biology, such as Evolvability, Constraints, Directionality in phenotypic evolution etc., and to boost interactions between scientists interested in these topics. It's an open seminar with participation free of charge, and we welcome your participation (Students, Postdocs, PIs etc.)

進化にご興味のある全ての皆様へ
新学術領域「進化制約方向性（倉谷代表）」公開オンラインセミナーのお知らせです。表現型進化の方向性、拘束、進化可能性といった概念や問題について、考え、議論したり新たな考えや人の相互作用をもたらすための不定期で行う国際オンラインセミナーです（公開。参加費無料）。フランクなオンラインミーティングです。大学院生の方々も広くご参加いただけましたら幸いです。
近くに興味を持たれそうな方がおられましたらお声がけいただけると幸いです。

[領域代表より、抜粋]（原文は HP をご覧ください）
過去半世紀の間、生物の進化についての私たちの理解はどれほど深まっただろうか。いま目の前にいるちっぽけな虫のかたちすら満足に説明してくれない。進化に関する私の理解はあの頃とあまり変わってはいない。さりとて、このままでよいとも思わない。いよいよ謎を解くべく、何かを始めなければならない。動植物のかたちがなぜこのようなものでなければならないのか、そしてそれが洗練されて行く過程にどのように合目的性が入り込むのか、自然選択説や中立説を包含するのみならず、それらが扱うことのできなかった本質的要素を統合することを通じ、本領域は進化生物学の新たな理論体系の構築を目論む。この試み自体、進化生物学領域における梁山泊であり、自ら新たな潮流となり、進化研究を変える第一歩ならんと欲するものである。
http://constrained-evo.org/greeting.html