Cologne Evolution Colloquium

SFB 680 Molecular Basis of Evolutionary Innovations

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Genetic dissection of assortative mating behaviour

Compared to morphological traits, we still know little about how genetics influence the evolution of behavioural differences in natural populations. This is especially important with respect to speciation, because we know that behavioural isolation often evolves more rapidly than intrinsic incompatibilities. *Heliconius* butterflies are well known for brightly coloured mimetic warning patterns. Because wing colour patterns are also used as mating cues, mimetic shifts can cause both pre- and post-mating isolation. However, shifts in colour pattern can not drive reproductive isolation alone; rather, they must be accompanied by corresponding mate preferences. I will discuss our work exploring the genetic basis of differential male attraction towards conspecific females, and how this may influence the evolution of new species.

Wednesday, August 23, 2017, 17:00
University of Cologne, Institute for Genetics
Seminar Room 0.46

Hosted by Matt Benton