



August | 2018

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IEG News

August edition

Erken Summer Research School

The Erken laboratory held their annual summer research school on June 18th - July 6th. The projects this year investigated bumblebees, zebra mussels, Gloeotrichia, ASPT-index, salinization effects on phytoplankton biomass, plankton's primary production, and respiration rates in freshwater lakes.



Photo by Marcus Enderskog

Between the 9th and 12th of July almost 90 kids from age 4 to 12 attended the Erken laboratory water adventure. They examined crayfish, plankton, and small animals living in a wind-sheltered beach.

News from the Administration

Salary review as of October 1, 2018 and salary talks

The schedule for the current salary review is that new salaries will be paid in connection with payroll pay in January 2019. The new salaries will apply from 1 October 2018 (payroll revision date). It will be retroactive payment. In advance of salary revisions, each employee must be given the opportunity to have a salary talk in order to clarify the connection between the employee's work output and salary development. Your salary talk is an evaluative conversation between you and your superior. The focus must lie on the work you have accomplished and the attitude you have demonstrated. Salaries must be individually and fairly justified and always be gender neutral. The head of department is responsible for the salary structure of the department and your program professor for respective department.

More information is available on Medarbetarportalen: <https://mp.uu.se/en/web/info/anstallning/ion-benefits/lon-samtal/lon-samtal>

2nd Uppsala Transposon Symposium

The Uppsala Transposon Symposium is an interdisciplinary forum discussing current and future strategies for bridging knowledge gaps in transposon, virus, and host biology using single-molecule and single-cell technologies. The symposium takes place between October 4 and 5 at BMC. For more information and registration, visit the symposium website [here](#).

New publications alert

Valentina Peona, Matthias H. Wassensteiner and Alexander Suh have a new publication out on genome assemblies and genomic sequencing using birds as a model. You can read the full paper [here](#).

Per Alström has published a [new paper](#) on the genetic history of magpies. He has also written a blog post about the study for the British Ornithologists' Union. You can read it [here](#). It was also translated to Chinese and published in connection to the Chinese Qixi festival, which is the Chinese equivalent to Valentine's Day. According to Chinese mythology, on this day millions of magpies formed a bridge between two lovers separated by the Silver River (symbolizing the Milky Way). The blog post has now almost 300 000 views.

Anders Berglund has published an article about mating in black-striped pipefish (*Syngnathus abaster*), complete with 80's movie references. Read it [here](#).

New Lecturer

Plant Ecology and Evolution have a new lecturer, Bob Muscarella. If you want to know more about him, his Twitter handle is [@BobMuscarella](#).

Teacher days

A number of teachers from IEG went to the annual teacher days at Fagerudd on August 21 - 22, courtesy of the Biology Education Centre. There they took part in workshops and talks about teaching methods, evaluation of courses and visions for the future.

New PhD-student

Erik Gudmunds is a new PhD student in the Husby lab in Evolutionary Biology programme and will work on comparative genomics of wing polymorphism in water striders.



Photo by Lena Thelander

IEG Day

On October 26, IEG will have a department day. More information to follow in the coming weeks, but clear your calendars today.

Opinion piece

Hans Ellegren has written an opinion article together with other members of the board in the Swedish Royal Academy of Sciences urging politicians to base their policies and decisions on science. You can read it [here](#) (in Swedish).

Evolution 2018 in Montpellier

On August 19 - 22, many IEG members traveled to France for the Evolution 2018 conference in Montpellier. There were lots of interesting presentations and all around good fun. You can read abstracts to oral presentations and posters [here](#).

Lab corner

A general reminder about keeping your labs clean and safe. If you haven't already, please familiarize yourself with the specific safety and cleaning routines for your lab.