



RIVERSIDE

DEPARTMENT OF ENTOMOLOGY

ENTM250 Seminar Series



Speaker:

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School of Interdisciplinary Forensics
New College of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences
Arizona State University

Date: Monday, February 26, 2024

Time: 4:00 pm - 4:50 pm

Format: In-Person Seminar & Virtual Access

Location: Genomics Auditorium 1102A

Zoom: 938 1040 4405

Passcode: 833289

Title:

"Decomposition in the Desert: A look at forensic entomology in Arizona "

Abstract:

Forensic entomology, the use of insects and arthropods to aid in legal investigations, is a subdiscipline of forensic science that has grown over recent years. This increase is due to the beneficial nature of these insects and the answers they can provide during an investigation. Insects can be used to answer a variety of questions including if the remains have been moved, detect the presence of certain toxins, and help determine how long remains have been present by calculating the insect's age. We see forensic entomology more heavily utilized in areas where forensic entomologists are located, leaving large gaps of knowledge, especially in areas that are environmentally unique. The southwestern United States contains the Sonoran Desert which extends south into Mexico. This desert system is unique compared to the rest of the country being extremely hot and arid, with biannual monsoons. Forensic entomology research is extremely limited within this environment and this talk will discuss the progress made through surveys, decomposition studies and casework in Arizona.

Refreshments will be served in the Entomology Building Courtyard at 3:30pm