

ALL STAFF AND STUDENTS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND

A.N.U. Seminar

ECOLOGY, EVOLUTION, AND GENETICS

RESEARCH SCHOOL OF BIOLOGY

Thursday 29 October 2009, 1pm

Ancient DNA preservation “down under”

Dr Michael Bunce

**School of Biological Sciences & Biotechnology
Murdoch University (Perth)**



The isolation, amplification and characterisation of ancient DNA from the fossil record has contributed significantly to our understanding of evolutionary processes. Over the past three years research in the Murdoch University ancient DNA lab has attempted to ascertain which substrates and sites are conducive to long-term DNA preservation in New Zealand and Australia, including the most effective ways to isolate any surviving mitochondrial and nuclear DNA.

Unsurprisingly, DNA preservation in the Australian fossil record has been harder to find than in the “cooler” New Zealand sites. However, when careful consideration is taken to maximise DNA recovery from the fossil substrates, we can successfully isolate and amplify DNA. This presentation will showcase some recent work on the extinct New Zealand moa, and discuss some preliminary ancient DNA data obtained from fossils preserved in Australia’s Southwest limestone cave system.

For further info about this seminar please contact:

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Seminars are held in the Botany & Zoology Seminar Room, Building 116 Daley Rd, ANU