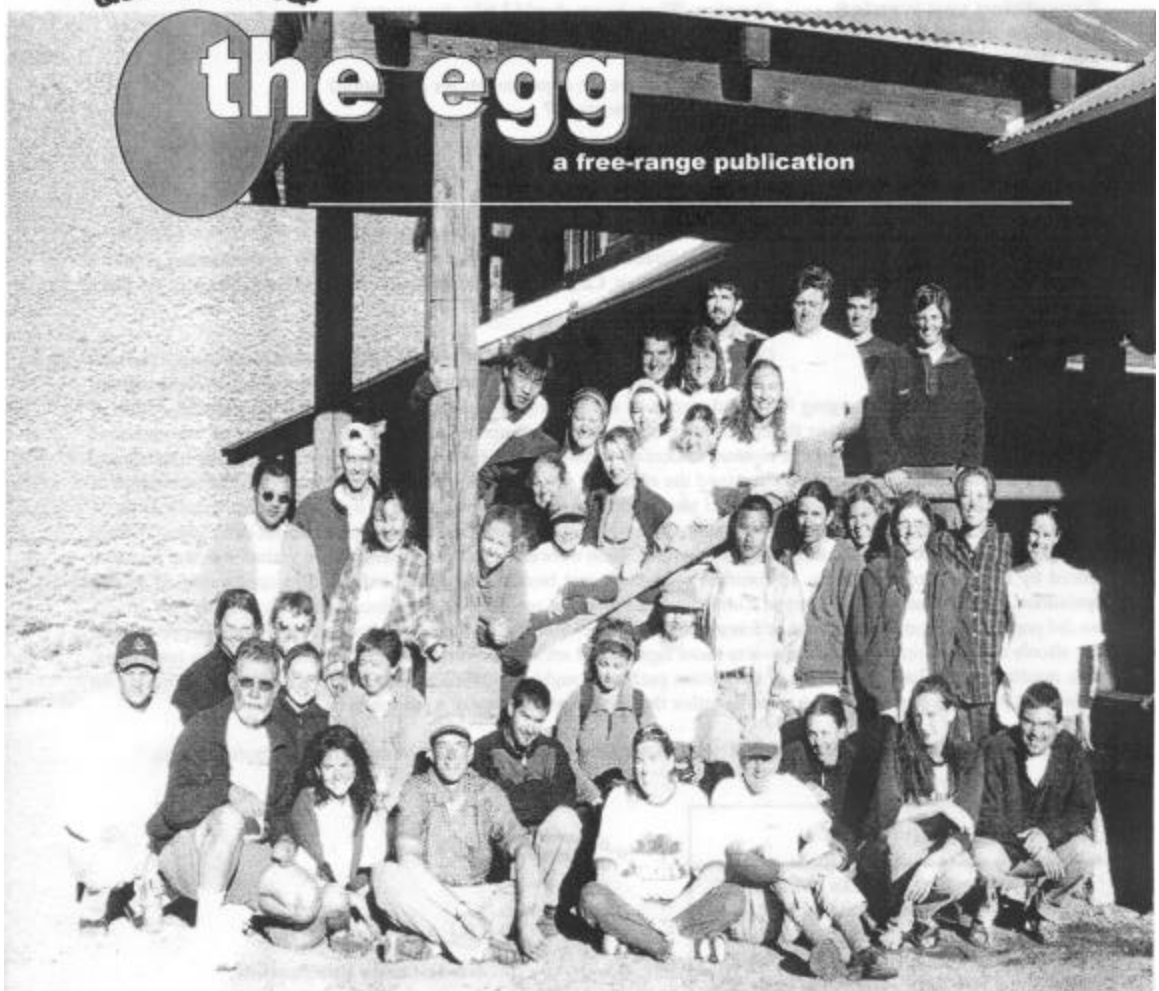
U.C. DAVIS ECOLOGY GRADUATE GROUP

FALL 2000, ISSUE 1

the egg

a free-range publication



Odyssey 2000-
WMRS

A huge and special thanks to Silvia and Ted Hillyer, Kevin Rice, the EGSA, and the 2000 Cohort for an amazing Odyssey.

Questions for the Chair. . .

Everything you wanted to know about ecology but were afraid to ask.

Question: What classes should I take this quarter?
Chair: Classes. . .?

Question: What are the requirements for graduation?
Chair: Requirements. . .?

Question: How do I get funding?
Chair: Funding. . .?

Question: What are the best places to party in town?
Chair: G Street for pool and pitchers of Pabst, Paragon on Wednesday night for Cold Shot, Cantina to meet undergrads, the Grad for dancing, or my place any time!

Question: What is the contribution of genetic differentiation on *Bromus tectorum*?
Chair: *Bromus tectorum* (cheatgrass), an alien annual grass, has become naturalized in a variety of habitats ranging from arid steppe to mesic forest communities within the intermountain region of western North America. To examine the contribution of genetic differentiation to the success of cheatgrass, we measured photosynthesis, growth, phenology and biomass allocation in populations collected as seed from contrasting habitats and grown in a glasshouse. In addition, we examined the effects of drought and population seed source on characteristics of photosynthesis and growth. In general, leaf-level photosynthetic response to variation in light, temperature and soil moisture did not vary significantly among the different habitat populations. Water-use efficiencies were not detectably different among populations. Growth, phenology and biomass allocation were also relatively insensitive to variation in soil moisture induced by the watering treatments. In contrast, phenology and biomass allocation exhibited marked variation among populations. Populations from arid steppe sites flowered earlier, set seed earlier and allocated less biomass to root growth than did populations from mesic steppe or forest habitats. Higher biomass allocation to shoot growth in arid steppe populations allows a plant to reach reproductive size more rapidly and set seed before moisture becomes limiting in late spring. These results suggest that mechanisms of adaptation such as drought avoidance may be better understood by focusing on whole-plant phenology and allocation patterns rather than on the physiology of a particular organ.

If you have questions for the Chair, please email THE CHAIR at bachasnoff@ucdavis.edu.

CLASSIFIDES

1st year ecology student seeks older more experienced ecologist for hiking, birding, predator-prey relations. Must wear tevas and own your own microscope. Funding a plus. Food web theorists need not apply.

You, sexy diva by the hog barn holding a nalgene bottle. Me in polar tech fleece. We talked about climbing. You identified the lesser bush tit, *Psaltri parus minimus*, and I knew you were the one. Meet me at 5:00am tomorrow in the arboratum. You bring Audubon- I'll bring Peterson.

FOR SALE. One field tech proficient in GPS. Doesn't eat or sleep. Able to identify warblers by call and soil pH by taste. Has own funding and '86 toyota with camper

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the egg is published appoximately once a month, or whenever we feel like it, by the Gradute Group in Ecology at the University of California, Davis, One Sheilds Ave., Davis, CA 95616. It is written by graduate students for graduate students and contains seminar and lecture postings, calendar of events, original prose and poetry, ecological news, and general nonsense. The opinions herein expressed do not represent the views of the University of California, nor even the Graduate Group in Ecology, but simply those of the editors. For international subscription information or submissions, please write: EDITOR at bachasnoff@ucdavis.edu, or call Beth Chasnoff at (530) 297-7732.

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
25 Orientation for new Teaching Assistants, 9:15-4:30pm, Freeborn Hall	**26** New registration cards made all day in 1C Recreation	**27** Ecology pot-luck dinner, 5:30pm at the Rec Pool Lodge	**28** Instruction begins	**29**
2	**3**	**4** First EGSA meeting & pizza, 5:30pm, 2nd floor, Wickson, top of the stairs	**5**	**6** GGE Volleyball Tournament, 5:00pm, campus field at A& 3rd Sts.
9 Columbus Day/ Yom Kippur	**10** First Graduate Student Assembly Meeting, 7:00-9:00pm, Cabernet Rm, Silo	**11**	**12**	**13** Last day to add courses

OCTOBER

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
16	**17** "Writing a curriculum vitae", 12:00-1:00pm, East Conference Rm, MU	**18** "Applying and interviewing for faculty positions", 12:00-1:00pm, East Conference Rm, MU	**19** GSA annual open house, 5:30pm-7:30, 253 South Silo	**20**
23	**24**	**25** Last day to drop courses Graduate student social with the Dean, 11:30am-1:30pm, Rm. 75, MU II	**26** "Writing a curriculum vitae", 12:00-1:00pm, East Conference Rm, MU "Update on electronic resources-for sciences/ engineerings", 12:00-1:00pm, Library Instruction Rm., 2nd floor, Shields REGISTER: call 2-1138 or savella@ucdavis.edu	**27** GGE Masquerade Ball (tentative)
30	**31** Halloween!			

ECL 290

J. Cech, Wildlife Fish and Conservation Biology
Physiological Ecology of Fishes. Tuesday, 11-12:00, 144 Olson, 1 Unit. CRN: 49136

R. Johnston, Environmental Science and Policy
Siting Analysis for the Next UC Campus Location, TBA but must be either Wed. 1-3 or Thurs. 9-11
2 Units. CRN: 49160

K. Miles, John Muir Institute
Topics in Ecotoxicology: Food Web Analysis and Bioaccumulation of Contaminants. TBA. CRN: 71088

D. Robertson, English
Writing American Nature. Thursday, 3-6:00 PM, 248 Voorhies, 2-4 Units. CRN: 49150