PARIS LODRON UNIVERSITÄT SALZBURG

Environment & Biodiversity

SEMINAR SERIES ENVIRONMENT & BIODIVERSITY

Guest Lecture

Robert Schabetsberger, Priv.-Doz. Mag. Dr.
Department Environment and Biodiversity
Zoology - Team Physiology, Morphology, Developmental & Behavioral Biology

Topic 1: From myth to reason: Progress towards unravelling the mysteries of tropical Anguillid eels

Endemic eels (Anguilla mossambica) were caught in the outflow of the largest lake in Madagascar and transported 600 km to the East Coast. They were tagged with pop-up satellite archival transmitters to study their marine migrations. The tags surfaced ca. 800 km east near the Mascarene Islands, where French colleagues had predicted their spawning area to be. The eels exhibited distinct diel vertical migrations between 70 and 1000 m depth corresponding to temperatures between 24 and 6 °C. Do eels always migrate back to where they were spawned? Do they form large aggregations or spawn in small numbers? How do they find their mates? During extensive research cruises only a handful of leptocephali were caught for most species, but nobody has ever seen spawning eels. However, wouldn't such a defenceless, shy creature escape from a brightly illuminated and noise-pounding research vessel? Will this expensive search eventually help us to close the reproductive cycle in captivity? Tropical countries have just started to enter the global eel trade, but local fishermen report drastic declines.

Friday, March 14, 2 PM

NLW-Faculty, Room 421, 2nd floor

SCAN ME

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Topic 2: A multi-proxy analysis of lake sediments reveals ecosystem dynamics in the European Alps over the last 14,000 years

A sediment core was taken from Sulzkarsee, the only lake in the National Park Gesäuse, Styria, that covers 14,000 years of lake history. The lake formed after the last glacial period. Litho- and chemostratigraphy, diatoms, pollen, macro-remains, and sedimentary ancient DNA of plants and vertebrates were analysed. Additionally, an archaeological survey and dendrochronological analyses were made. A forest developed around Sulzkarsee around 11,500 yrs before present. During the Bronze Age (3,500 yrs BP), human impact became evident through forest clearance and elevated soil erosion. Domesticates appeared in the sedaDNA record. When transhumance intensified around 500 yrs BP, major ecological changes occurred.

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