



2011 PUBLIC SEMINAR SERIES

ALL YOU EVER WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT FIDDLER CRABS

Presenters

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Fiddler crabs are remarkable little animals. They have tiny brains, yet they are capable of incredibly complex behaviours. Males help their neighbours to defend their territories from intruders. They also (seemingly) cooperate with each other to wave their large claws in synchrony to attract the attention of females. The ladies are very choosy and spend a long time selecting a mate, basing the decision on both the quality of the male and the quality of his home.

There are over 100 species of Fiddlers world wide, and about 20 of them occur in Australia. They are often the most commonly seen inter-tidal animal on tropical mudflats, and are ecologically important as a major food source for shore birds. Although a lot is known about them as prey items, surprisingly little is known about their behaviour. This seminar will introduce you to the social behaviours of these crabs, including territoriality and fighting behaviour, mate attraction and female choice.

Thursday, 13 October 3.30pm

The Seminar Room, NARU, 23 Ellengowan Drive, Brinkin

This seminar is free and open to the public.

The views expressed in this lecture are those of the presenter and do not necessarily represent the view of ANU.

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