

Fishing in the Desert for Mechanisms Underlying Trophic Diversification of Cichlid Fishes

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The evolutionary novelties in the jaws of cichlid fishes may underlie the putatively unparalleled diversity and ecological success of these icons of adaptive radiation. My research combines molecular phylogenetics, functional ecology, and biomechanics to examine the micro- and macroevolutionary consequences of trophic adaptations for the success of cichlids. During my seminar, I will utilize my work in the deserts of Mexico and rivers of Central America to discuss general mechanisms of evolutionary trophic divergence in these fishes.

