

Undergraduate Research Seminar
Wednesday, June 3rd, 2015 5:30 p.m.
Leigh 309

Margarita Hernandez

“Preliminary dietary analysis of introduced Greenhouse Frogs (*Eleutherodactylus planirostris*) on Seahorse Key, FL.”

The Greenhouse Frog, *Eleutherodactylus planirostris*, is well known for its introduction into peninsular Florida. This species has more recently been introduced onto five Hawaiian islands, Guam, and Seahorse Key, Florida. Its introduction onto Seahorse Key has not been well studied, and the ecological impacts on the local ecosystem have yet to be evaluated. As a preliminary investigation, we analyzed stomach contents of 31 frogs collected between June and November 2014 from two different habitat types: beach and moist leaf litter. The arthropod groups Hymenoptera (Formicidae) (60%), Arachnida (Acari) (6%), and Coleoptera (6%) comprised the majority of the prey items in the stomachs of the frogs. Frogs that occurred in beach habitats contained amphipod prey within their stomachs, suggesting different prey availability between habitats. Our results are consistent with those from dietary studies of *E. planirostris* conducted on Hawaii. However, we also observed that native snakes on Seahorse Key consume this frog, which may provide an important prey resource. Our data help to better assess the ecological impact of these non-native frogs on Seahorse Key.