

November 6, 2009  
4:00 PM  
Ackert Hall, Room 221



Coffee & cookies served  
preceding the seminar in  
Ackert Hall, Room 225

# Division of Biology Seminar

**Donald H. Feener, Jr.**

Professor  
Department of Biology  
University of Utah

**Dominance, Discovery and Decapitation: In Search of General Rules for Ant Communities**

Ants comprise a diverse and ecologically successful group that supports an even more diverse assemblage of insects and other arthropods. My lab seeks to understand the behavioral and ecological characteristics that have allowed ants to obtain ecological dominance in many ecosystems and how ant associates are able to exploit these ecological dominants. I will discuss how environmental constraints, interspecific trade-offs, and indirect effects affect the assembly local ant communities. I will show how common interspecific trade-offs between competitive ability and other traits such as resource discovery, parasitoid vulnerability and thermal tolerance govern the interactions among ant species and how they can be used to develop an integrative, mechanistic theory of species interactions that will allow us to predict co-occurrence and abundance of species in local ant communities.

If you would like to meet with Dr. Feener, contact Dr. Carolyn Ferguson at 2-3166 or [ferg@ksu.edu](mailto:ferg@ksu.edu).

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