SCMB Molecular Biosciences Seminar

Rabbit Management and RHD-Boost: Improving the biological control of rabbits

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Abstract: Although Rabbit Haemorrhagic Disease Virus (RHDV) was released as a biological control of rabbits in 1995, rabbit numbers throughout Australia have reportedly been on the increase since 2003. Rabbits which survive RHDV infection develop life-time immune resistance and pre-infection with a benign rabbit calicivirus RCV-A1 could also provide partial protection to lethal RHDV infection. To maintain the benefits of RHDV for rabbit management, a research project (RHD-Boost) was established. The Boost project investigated overseas strains of RHDV for their potential to overcome the immune resistance to the original RHDV strain and the effects of the benign RCV-A1 strain. This seminar will discuss the impact of rabbits in Australia, how we have attempted to control them, the effects of biological control, and the likely impact of the RHD-Boost strain on Australia’s rabbit population as well as how members of the public can get involved in a Australia’s largest field experiment.

Biosketch: Tarnya Cox is the project leader for the RHD-Boost project for the Invasive Animals Cooperative Research Centre. Tarnya is a former student of UQ, completing her undergraduate studies in Animal Science (Wildlife Biology) and postgraduate studies in Wildlife Ecology and Vertebrate Pest Management at the Gatton Campus. Areas of research include; rodent ecology, predator-prey dynamics, odour repellents, leptospirosis in flying foxes and vertebrate pest management.

Date Wednesday, 18 March 2015
Time 12:00pm – 1:00pm
Room AIBN seminar room, (Bldg 75 -Level 1 - Room 132)

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