



SYNOPSIS

Urbanization is arguably one of the most damaging, persistent, and rapidly expanding form of anthropogenic pressure on ecosystems and global biodiversity. Urban environments mean an endless series of challenges for organisms, including noise, crowds, pollution, and lack of green spaces. The effects of urbanization on mammals are not well-studied compared to the effects on birds for example.

Bats play very important roles in ecosystems, acting as primary predators of nocturnal insects, dispersers of seed, and pollinators of plants so knowing how they respond to various forms of habitat disturbance is critical. Many bat species have found ways of surviving the stresses of urbanized landscapes, yet they're not all necessarily thriving. In this talk I will give an overview of research in my lab on the ability of bats to handle life in Durban. I will show that there are species-specific differences between insectivorous bats concerning their adaptability and vulnerability to urban stresses such as pollution from wastewater treatment plants and light pollution. I will argue that the local risk for bat species that can't adapt to urban environments may be high and special conservation measures should be considered for them.



BIOGRAPHICAL PROFILE: Corrie Schoeman

Corrie Schoeman was born in Johannesburg, and then spent most of his childhood growing up in Holland. He returned to South Africa where he completed his high school and studied Law and Economics at WITS. After completing his national service, he spent 5 years in South-East Asia teaching English and travelling widely. He returned to South Africa in 1998 to study Zoology at the University of Cape Town and completed his PhD in 2006. He joined UKZN as an academic in 2007. He has authored ~ 40 journal publications and 2 books, including *Bats of Central and Southern Africa: a Biogeographic and Taxonomic Synthesis*. He has worked on small mammals and insects in Africa, Madagascar, South-East Asia, and Central America. He is currently Senior Lecturer of Terrestrial Ecology at UKZN, and vice-president of the Zoological Society of southern Africa.



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In celebration of National Science Week 2015

The College of Agriculture, Engineering and Science

cordially invites you to attend a

Public Talk

HOW DO URBAN BATS COPE WITH ENVIRONMENTAL STRESSES?

by

Dr Corrie Schoeman

School of Life Sciences, UKZN

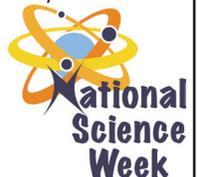


Date: Monday, 3 August 2015

Venue: Science & Technology Education Centre (STEC),
Westville Campus, UKZN

Time: 17h30 for 18h00

The lecture will be followed by light refreshments



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