

## News & Views Assignment I - EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGY FALL 2017

(10 points) (due September 22<sup>nd</sup>)

The goal of this assignment is to find an example of a recent advance or interesting finding in Evolutionary Biology. Virtually every day some interesting study or discovery appears in the primary literature that advances our understanding of the evolutionary principles (any of them) that we are studying in class. Some of these findings are the “gee wiz” kind and some are fundamentally important advances to the field. Both are interesting. Throughout the course I’ll show you examples of these “News & Views” pieces that are relevant to the material in class (and some that are probably not so relevant!). In some cases these recent findings capture the imagination and make it into the popular literature. Your mission is to find an example of recent advances in the *primary literature* and:

Make a **1-slide ppt** presentation highlighting the discovery. **(5 pts)**

Write a **1-page** summary describing the discovery and its significance. **(5 pts)**

**In your ppt slide include the following points:**

- Give it a catchy title – this can be the title of the paper highlighting the research or your own.
- Acknowledge the source of the material. Who are the authors, what journal was it published in and when?
- Include Text, Graphs, Figures, or Photos from the original paper or other pieces highlighting the paper to illustrate the main finding and make it easy to quickly see the result and impact.

**In your 1-page summary include the following points:**

- Explain what the authors found. Why did you pick this paper? What makes it novel and news worthy?
- Explain the general approach to discovery (i.e., knock-out of important genes, or digging up significant new fossils in a remote locality, etc.).
- Explain the area of relevance to the concepts and material we have covered in class.
- What future research do you think should be done to further advance our understanding in this area? Does this work open up new avenues of research or does it just solve an outstanding puzzle?

**Guidelines:**

**Length:** One ppt Slide and a One-Page Summary

**Submission:** Submit your slide and paper electronically via email.

**Deadline:** Due by the end of the day **Oct 7<sup>th</sup>**

Include appropriate citations to the paper(s) in your text (e.g., Hendry et al. 2011) and a reference at the end in this format:

Hendry, A. P., M. T. Kinnison, M. Heino, T. Day, T. B. Smith, G. Fitt, C. T. Bergstrom, J. Okeshott, P. S. Jorgensen, M. P. Zalucki, G. Gilchrist, S. Southerton, A. Sih, S. Strauss, R. F. Denison, S. P. Carroll. 2011. Evolutionary principles and their practical application. *Evolutionary Applications* 4:159-183.