

Pieces in a puzzle: How drought, traits and behavior can affect the distribution of freshwater mussels

Understanding the factors driving the distribution of riverine organisms is fundamental for conservation plans, evaluation of threats, and predicting the impact of climate change. The distribution of the highly imperiled group of unionid freshwater mussels is a multi-scale puzzle and this talk will provide insights into a few pieces of this puzzle by addressing the following objectives: (1) Comparing trait and species responses to environmental heterogeneity at the river scale; (2) testing behavioral responses to habitat conditions at the microhabitat scale; and (3) examining the impact of drought and drought refuges.