



The University of Hong Kong
School of Biological Sciences

**Qualifying
Seminar**

Keep track of insect community easier – application of proxies and prediction by abiotic factors

Date: 13 Sep, 2024 (Fri)

Time: 14:30

Venue: KBSB 6N-11 & Zoom



About the speaker:

NG Yuen Lam (Phyllis) is an Mphil student from Insect Biodiversity and Biogeography Laboratory, supervised by Dr. Benoit Guénard. With 5 years experience in wildlife conservation and around 2 years of insect surveying, she developed great interest in insects. Through the entomological research study, she aims to develop tools in understanding insect species diversity and find out how the communities are affected under environmental change.



Abstract:

Understanding species composition and community dynamics are important for any conservation scheme. Insects are important in terms of their unique ecological function and species diversity yet conservation effort is still limited.

An ongoing 3-year insect sampling project on Lantau Island aims to prepare an inventory of Hymenoptera and Coleoptera species for their ecological importance. To understand the taxonomic diversity thoroughly, prolonged insect sampling is required. Yet, employing multiple sampling skills to survey all vertical strata is very resource demanding. Also, community structure may change according to abiotic factors induced by climate change. It is crucial to find an efficient way to monitor the taxa.

In this research, it is aimed to (1) establish two proxies as tools to estimate the total species richness of Hymenoptera and Coleoptera, and (2) finding out if the Coleopteran species turnover is driven by temperature difference or other environmental factors. It is expected that the results can be a reference for future insect monitoring program.