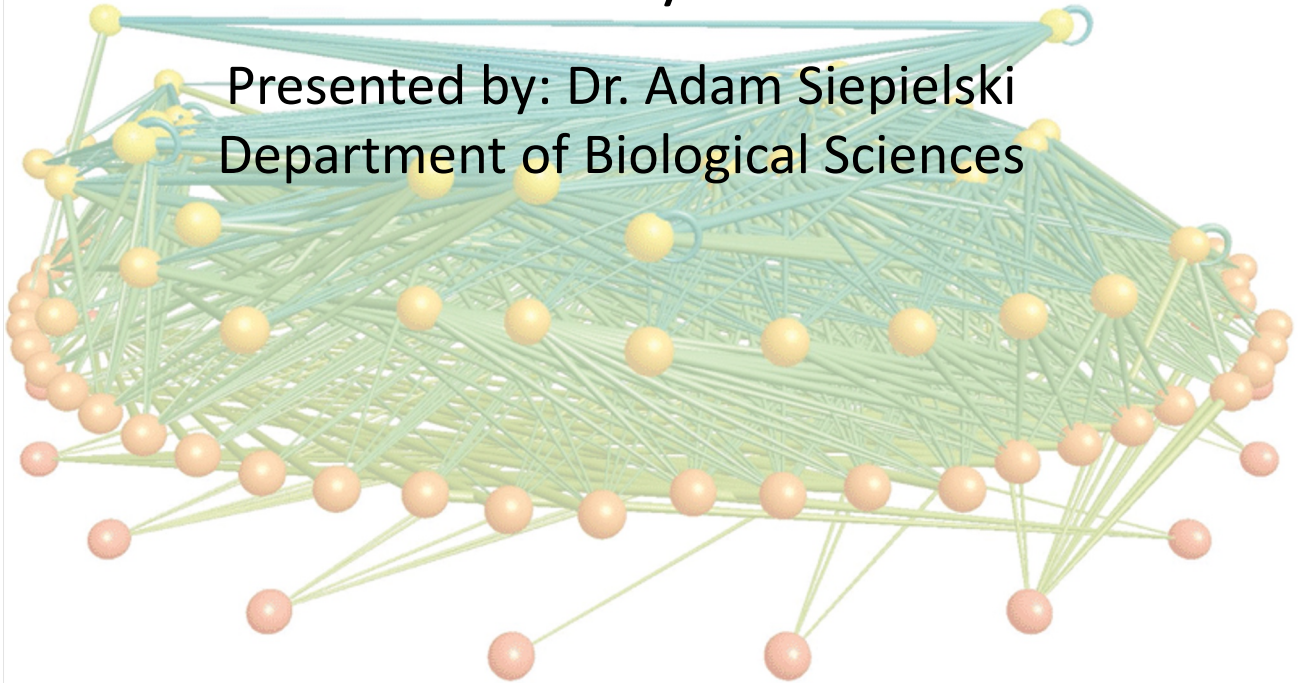


Biological Science seminar

Adaptation, selection and coexistence in a dynamic food web

Presented by: Dr. Adam Siepielski
Department of Biological Sciences



THE DRAGON-FLY.

PLATE 9.

BY A. S. PACKARD, JR., M. D.

WERE we to select from among the insects a type of all that is savage, relentless, and bloodthirsty, the Dragon-fly would be our choice. From the moment of its birth until its death, usually a twelve-month, it riots in bloodshed and carnage. Living beneath the waters perhaps eleven months of its life, in the larva and pupa states, it is literally a walking pitfall for luckless aquatic insects; but when transformed into a fly, ever on the wing in pursuit of its prey, it throws off all concealment, and reveals the more unblushingly its rapacious character.

Not only does its horrid visage and ferocious bearing frighten children, who call it the "Devil's Darning-needle," but it even distresses older persons, so that its name has become a byword. Could we understand the language of insects, what tales of horror would be revealed! What traditions, sagas, fables, and myths must adorn the annals of animal life regarding this Dragon among insects!

Packard (1867) American Naturalist

Thursday,
September 21st
3:30 PM
SCEN 408
(Meet and greet@
3:00 in SCEN 502)