



Seminar(i)

Ancient asexual scandals – 200 million years without sex?

Dr. Isa Schön

Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences (Brussels)

The paradox of sex is still one of the last unresolved puzzles in evolutionary biology. Most animals and plants reproduce sexually at least at one point during their life cycle. But there are four animal groups that have reproduced without sex and males for at least 1 million years. Because they seem to defy all ruling evolutionary theory, they have also been called ancient asexual scandals. Evolutionary theory predicts that long-term asexuals should accumulate deleterious mutations and not be able to quickly adapt to new environmental conditions, such as for example climate change or parasites. By using mainly darwinulid, non-marine ostracods and bdelloid rotifers as examples, different strategies will be presented on how these groups can survive without sex and recombination, even for millions of years.

<i>WHERE?</i>	Seminar room ICBiBE - SS6 (semisoterrani de l'edifici d'instituts)
<i>WHEN?</i>	Thursday 27/10/2016 - 12:00 h