



Seminar(i)

**African Killifish: Vertebrate model
with invertebrate life history**

Luc Brendonck

University of Leuven (KU Leuven) - Belgium

Similar to large branchiopod crustaceans, the African turquoise killifish (ATK) is considered a temporary pool specialist. Just like these ancient crustaceans, *Nothobranchius furzeri* produces dormant eggs to bridge the dry phase of the habitat. After filling of the pond, eggs of both groups reveal partial hatching that could result from combined bet hedging and phenotypic plasticity as a risk spreading strategy to cope with temporal habitat stochasticity. It remains to be studied if, similar to large branchiopods, ATK also spreads the risk of unsuccessful reproduction in space by dispersal of active specimens or dormant propagules. In both groups maturation is also extremely fast to be able to replenish the egg bank before pools dry out again. Both groups differ in feeding biology with ATK heavily preying on the mainly filter feeding large branchiopods. Despite this negative interaction and similar life history, ATK and large branchiopods do co-occur in savannah ponds due to life history and morphological adaptations of large branchiopods in the presence of fish. The similar life history characteristics with a short life cycle, fast maturation and production of dormant eggs in both groups has also resulted in similar applications, for example in ecotoxicology.

WHERE? Seminar room – SS6 (Institutes bldg. floor -1)

https://links.uv.es/biodiver/luc_brendonck

WHEN? Thursday 04/11/2021 – 12:00 h

LANGUAGE? English

