

BiNews

April 2023

Biology Honors Thesis Presentations

The Biology Department invites you to come listen and support our Senior Honors Thesis students on **Monday, May 1st**. Presentations will begin at 4:00 PM in Kirkpatrick Lecture Hall, SCCE A011.

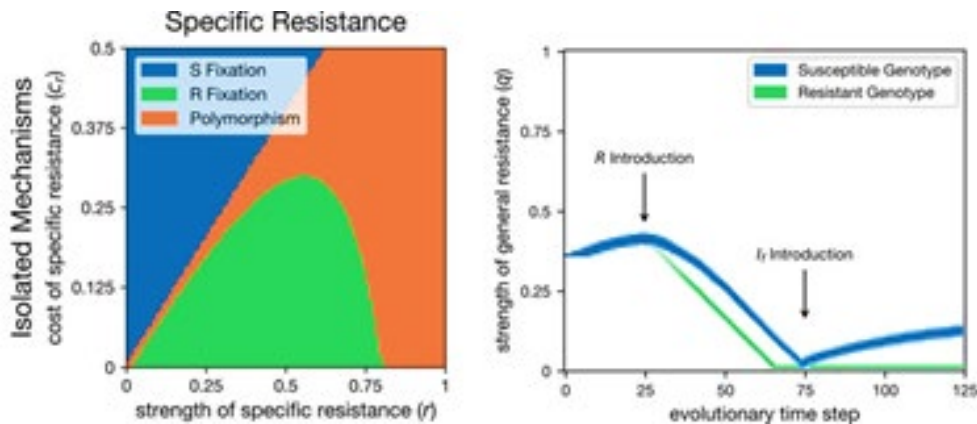
New Publication from the Clotfelter Lab

Ethan Clotfelter is a co-author on a continent-wide study of insect phenology [published recently in the journal *Ecology*](#). The authors found extensive regional variation in insect abundance and diversity in response to temperature, which gives insight on the effects of climate change on insect communities. **Isabel Davis '24** and **Callie Hundley '24** (both SURF 2021) helped collect and identify some of the insect samples used in this study.



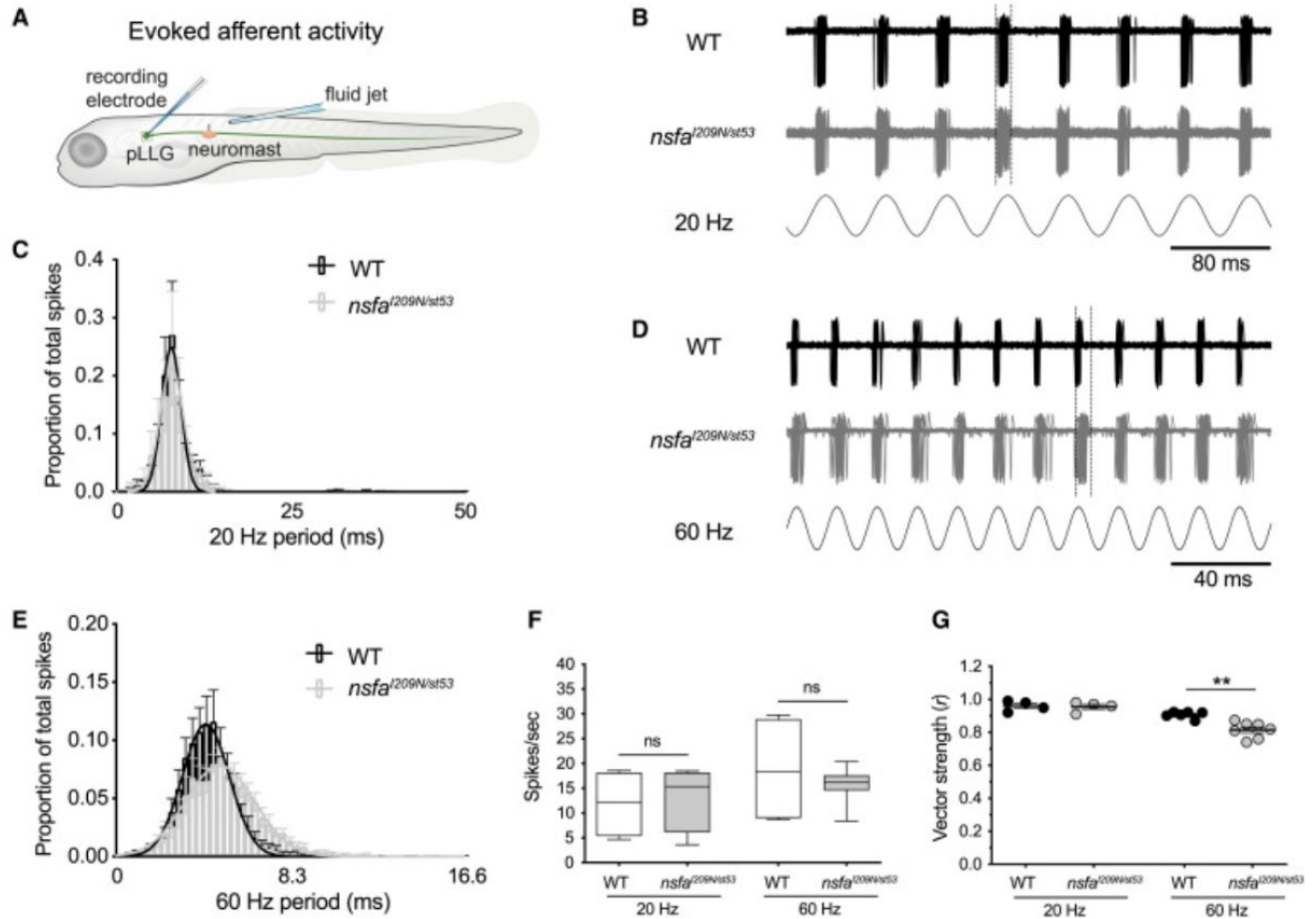
New Publication from the Hood Lab

The Hood Lab had a publication recently in the *Journal of Evolutionary Biology*, which is a theoretical project about how a host's response to selection by an endemic disease affects the risk of new disease emergence. The title is "Specific resistance prevents the evolution of general resistance and facilitates disease emergence." (<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/jeb.14170>)



Hot off the presses

Matthew Perkins '21 and Prof. Trapani are authors on a [new article in Cell Reports](#) entitled "Sensory deficit screen identifies *nsf* mutation that differentially affects SNARE recycling and quality control". The two collaborated with two other laboratories on the study examining vesicle fusion.



Updates from the Biology Steering Committee

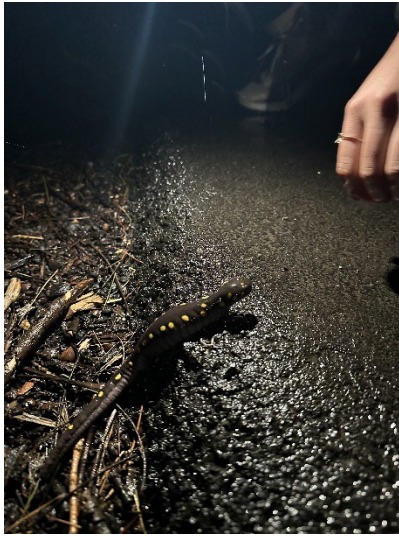


Biology Steering Committee Hosts Tea Time

The Biology Steering Committee will host its final Tea Time of the semester on **Monday May 1st from 12:00 – 1:00pm in the Science Center Living Room**. This is a great opportunity for students to bring their lunch or simply enjoy some tea and snacks all while getting to know the other students, faculty, and staff that help make Biology such an amazing department. We hope to see you there!

Salamander Crossing

For smaller Massachusetts natives, like amphibians, spring rains signal it's time to emerge from winter retreats and migrate to breeding sites. Unfortunately, busy roads often stand in the way. On Friday, March 31st about 25 students attended the event to watch and volunteer at a salamander crossing.



Major Fair

On March 25th, the Association of Amherst Students brought back an exciting annual project: The Major Fair. Members of the Steering Committee tabled at the event to support underclassmen in exploring the Biology major, answer questions about introductory Biology classes, and discuss the different pathways through the major.

If you have any updates for the next issue of BioNews, please send them to Ldavis@amherst.edu.