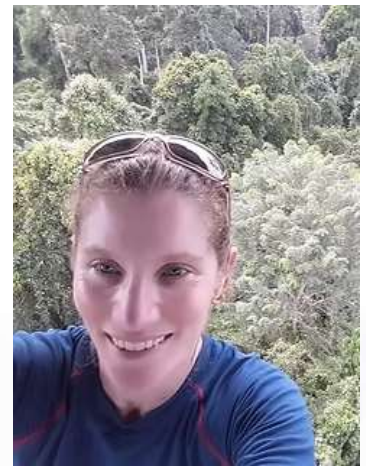


## Invisible Engineers: Addressing the taxonomic and capacity impediments in tropical entomology

Speaker: Dr. Eleanor Slade  
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Date: August 1<sup>st</sup> (Friday) 2025  
Time: 10:00 – 11:30  
Venue: Mirai Crea Multipurpose Space (1F)  
Language: English



#Pre-registration here



### Abstract

There is both a taxonomic and capacity impediment preventing the use of insects in biodiversity monitoring and conservation assessments, particularly in the tropics, where diversity is highest. A crucial but often overlooked part of being able to predict biodiversity responses to environmental change is the collation and curation of the variety of data documenting species occurrences, distributions, traits, and natural history. For temperate regions and common groups such resources exist and have allowed ecologists and conservationists to map species distribution changes over time and space, to determine their conservation status, and predict their future response to environmental change.

Dung beetles are an ecologically important insect taxa providing many ecosystem functions and services. They are also an excellent model taxon for biodiversity research as they respond rapidly to environmental changes and can be sampled cost-effectively. However, in South East Asia little is documented about their natural history and distributions, many species are still undescribed, and there are few taxonomists, guides or keys for the region. In this presentation we use our experience researching the dung beetles of Malaysia and Singapore to discuss strategies to fill data and knowledge gaps in tropical insect biodiversity and conservation science and facilitate the use of insects as bioindicators of environmental change in the region.

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