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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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ACA Grants in Biodiversity announces 2012 award recipients

Edmonton – April 2, 2012 – The ACA Grants in Biodiversity program is pleased to announce that 22 graduate student projects will share \$206,616 of funding this year. The projects include studies on aggressive crickets, ferruginous hawks, Alberta shallow lakes, mountain pine beetles, elk behaviour, forest development, the sex life of flowers, and the effects of metals on songbirds in the oil sands. Although Alberta based universities took the majority of the awards, this year the body of knowledge about Alberta’s biodiversity will also benefit from projects being conducted out of Queen’s University and the University of Northern British Columbia.

The ACA Grants in Biodiversity program is funded by the Alberta Conservation Association and operated through the Alberta Cooperative Conservation Research Unit – a partnership between the University of Alberta, the University of Calgary and the University of Lethbridge. With this year’s awards, the 18 year old ACA Grants in Biodiversity has now awarded over \$3.8 million dollars to 383 researchers. The research supported by the ACA Grants in Biodiversity ultimately aims to conserve, protect and enhance Alberta's fish, wildlife and natural habitats.

2012 ACA Grants in Biodiversity Recipients

Recipient	Supervisor(s)	Institution	Project Title
Heather Bird	Felix Sperling	University of Alberta	Alberta-wide species survey of a key herbivore, <i>Choristoneura</i> spp., the spruce budworm
Susan Bury	Robert Laird	University of Lethbridge	Intransitivity in male dominance hierarchies augmented by memory effects on aggressive behaviour in crickets, <i>Gtyllus veletis</i>
Jobran Chebib	Sean Rogers	University of Calgary	Measuring signatures of fishing selection on Lake whiefish (<i>Coregonus clupeaformis</i>) in Lesser Slave Lake, Alberta
Paul Cigan	Nadir Erbilgin and JC Cahill	University of Alberta	Mountain pine beetle attacks to ectomycorrhizal-seedling feedbacks: Player and processes that govern regeneration in post-outbreak forests
Alana Clason	Phil Burton	University of Northern British Columbia	Resilience and dynamics of whitebark pine at the northern edge of its range under a changing climate
Gregory Earle	Ralph Cartar	University of Calgary	The influence of wing wear on energetics and niche breadth, as a mediator of tongue length and body size, in structuring of bumblebee community
Erick Elgin	Leland Jackson	University of Calgary	Relationships between timing of macrophyte growth and lake turbidity with an emphasis on zooplankton grazing in Alberta shallow lakes

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Robert Found	Colleen Cassady St. Clair	University of Alberta	Individual variation in elk behavioural types, stress, nutrition, and life-history strategies
Benoît Gendreau-Berthiaume	Ellen Macdonald	University of Alberta	The process of canopy break-up in lodgepole pine ecosystems of west-central Alberta: Implications for understory plant biodiversity
James Glasier	Scott Nielsen	University of Alberta	Climate and latitude as determinants of ant species distributions and faunal turnover
Christine Godwin-Sheppard	Robert Barclay and Judit Smits	University of Calgary	Effects of metals on songbirds in the oil sands region of Alberta
Anna Hargreaves	Christopher Eckert	Queen's University	Ecology and evolution of altitudinal range limits in a montane herb
Lisa Hensel	Lawrence Harder	University of Calgary	Sexual selection in <i>Delphinium glaucum</i> : Selection on floral and inflorescence traits and the effects of pollen dispersal patterns
Hyejin Hwang	Vic Loeffers and Soung Ryoul Ryu	University of Alberta	Comparison of understory burning and mechanical site preparation to regenerate lodgepole pine stands killed by mountain pine beetle
Melynda Johnson	Erin Bayne	University of Alberta	The effects of landscape ecology on post fledging ferruginous hawk movements and survivorship
Mathias Kaiser	Mary Reid	University of Calgary	Acoustic ecology of mountain pine beetles
Cory Kremer	Sean Rogers	University of Calgary	Landscape genetics of brook stickleback (<i>Culaea inconstans</i>)
Kevin Kwok	Robert Laird	University of Lethbridge	Inducible anti-herbivore defenses of the annual sunflower (<i>Helianthus annuus</i>) against a specialist sunflower beetle (<i>Zygogramma exclamationis</i>)
Guadalupe Peralta-Vázquez	Mary Reid	University of Calgary	Ecology and fitness effects of phoretic mite fauna on bark beetle hosts
Jesika Reimer	Robert Barclay	University of Calgary	Adaptations of <i>Myotis lucifugus</i> at northern latitudes in the face of climate change and whitenose syndrome
Haley Tunna	Leland Jackson and Sean Rogers	University of Calgary	Population genetics of skewed ratios in longnose dace (<i>Rhinichthys cataractae</i>)
Bradley van Paridon	Cameron Goater and John Gilleard	University of Lethbridge	Invasion pathway and population genetics of introduced lancet liver fluke in ungulates in Cypress Hills Park, Alberta