



Some surprising insights into mass coral spawning



THE CENTER FOR SUSTAINABLE ECOSYSTEM SOLUTIONS PRESENTS:

Dr Natalie Rosser, UOW

Date: Thursday 13th September

Time: 16:00 - 17:00

Venue: Building 20 Theatre 3 (20.3)

Refreshments will be provided

ABSTRACT

On one night each year, after the full moon in March, one of the most extraordinary and spectacular reproductive events on the planet unfolds, as hundreds of millions of broadcast spawning corals release their trillions of gametes into the waters of the Indian Ocean. This accuracy is essential to achieve efficient fertilization in the vastness of the oceans. So why do some corals spawn outside this window? And what are the evolutionary implications of this? Could Next Generation Sequencing help us find the answer? Come along to this talk and find out.

BIOGRAPHY

Dr Natalie Rosser is a Visiting Fellow and Associate Lecturer at UOW. She did her PhD at the University of Western Australia in phylogenetics and population genetics of *Acropora* corals. One of her greatest passions in life is coral spawning. Why do corals spawn en masse? How did this pattern evolve? Is it nature or nurture that's driving it? These are some of the questions that keep her awake at night.



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