



PhD project available at Monash University from 2018

A PhD project is available from 2018 in David Chapple's Evolutionary Ecology of Environmental Change research group at Monash University (<https://sites.google.com/site/chapplelab/>). The Chapple Lab uses field studies, field- and lab-based experiments, comparative analyses, morphological analyses and molecular approaches to examine the impact of past, current, and future environmental change on phenotype, life-history and distribution. We use squamate reptiles as model systems.

The successful student will be able to develop a project in one the lab's two main research areas:

- **Behavioural and Evolutionary Ecology of the Delicate skink (*Lampropholis delicata*) [supported by an ARC Discovery Grant, 2017-2019].** The delicate skink is one of the most abundant and widespread vertebrates in eastern Australia, occurring from North Queensland to Tasmania. It is also the only Australian lizard that has successfully established overseas, with invasive populations in the Hawaiian Islands, New Zealand, and Lord Howe Island. We are examining the role of behaviour in the introduction process, intraspecific hybridisation in the invasive range, thermal biology, reproductive biology, colour pattern polymorphism, and its impact on native species. In addition, we are completing a range of comparative analyses on other widespread and range-restricted members of the genus.
- **Lizard Macroecology.** We use comparative methods to investigate the ecology and evolution of squamate reptiles, and particularly skinks. Our research covers the global lizard fauna, and is focused in areas including i) conservation and extinction risk, ii) the interplay between morphology, ecology, ecophysiology, life-history and the environment, and iii) invasion biology and biosecurity. This project will involve collaboration with Shai Meiri (Tel Aviv University, Israel; <http://shaimeirilab.weebly.com/>), and will utilize his exist comparative datasets for the world's lizard species. The project may involve collecting additional data from museum specimens.

Interested students should email their CV, academic record, and research interests to Assoc Prof David Chapple (David.Chapple@monash.edu) by **Friday 13th October 2017**. The successful applicant will need to complete and submit an online PhD scholarship application by the 31st October deadline (a mid-year scholarship round [31st May] may be available for highly-qualified students who are unable to make the October deadline).

Students will need to successfully obtain a PhD scholarship. Australian and New Zealand citizens can apply for an Research Training Program (RTP) stipend or Monash Graduate Scholarship (MGS). International students can apply for a Monash International Postgraduate Research Scholarship (MIPRS) or Monash Graduate Scholarship. For further information regarding PhD entry requirements see: <http://www.monash.edu/migr/future-students/support/scholarships>

Cheers

David Chapple

Dr David Chapple
Associate Professor in Evolutionary Ecology
School of Biological Sciences (25 Rainforest Walk)
Monash University
Clayton VIC 3800, Australia
Ph: +61-3-9905 3015
Email: david.chapple@monash.edu
Website: <https://sites.google.com/site/chapplelab/>
