



Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

Jacob Blaustein Institutes for Desert Research

The Swiss Institute for Dryland Environmental and Energy Research

Mitrani Department of Desert Ecology

Seminar

Efrat Gavish-Regev

The Arachnid National

Natural History Collection,

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Tuesday, June 4, 2019, 12:00

Seminar Room, Old Administration Building

Participants are invited to meet the seminar speaker at the MDDE meeting room immediately after the seminar (~ 13:00). Please bring your lunch; snacks will be provided.

Arachnid Evolution in Subterranean Habitats

The subterranean realm, which includes caves and other hypogean habitats, is shaped by environmental filtering such as limitation of light and resources and is isolated from the epigeal environment. These conditions pose strong selection on species inhabiting caves, leading to different levels of adaptations (e.g. troglitic species, obligated to life in caves). These adaptations, in turn, promote reproductive isolation and may lead to speciation. Nevertheless, it is not fully understood whether all troglitic species share the same mechanism of speciation. We use arachnids as model organisms to study the origin of troglitic species and the geographic mode and mechanisms of speciation. We ask specifically if the subterranean arachnofauna of Israel is a result of historical climatic changes, or of exploitation of new habitats? enemies.

