Presenter: Javier Monzón
Ph.D. Student in Ecology & Evolution

Title: Landscape Genomics of Northeastern Coyotes

Synopsis: The current distribution of coyotes is the result of a recent and very rapid range expansion. For example, coyotes were first recorded in New York since the 1920s and colonized the rest of northeastern United States in the 1940s. Despite the ubiquity and rapid expansion of the species and the ability of individuals to disperse hundreds of kilometers, recent studies detected genetic subdivisions among adjacent coyote populations despite the lack of a physical barrier to movement. Javier will discuss his preliminary research on the genetics of northeastern coyotes and his plans to further explore hypotheses about the influence of habitat on genetic structure.

Brief Biography: Javier Monzón is a third-year Ph.D. student in the Department of Ecology and Evolution. He received a Bachelor of Arts with Honors in Biology from CUNY Queens College. His research interests lie at the interface of behavioral, landscape, and molecular ecology. Specifically, he is interested in the behavior of dispersal in mammalian carnivores and how this behavior influences the genetic structure of populations. He is a member of the Society for Conservation Biology and the American Society of Mammalogists. Javier was born in Bogotá, Colombia, but grew up in Queens, NY since he was 8 years old. Since those early years of childhood he has aspired to be a biologist.

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