



第 38 回 昆虫学格致セミナー

The genetics and chemical ecology of host-race formation in *Polyergus* kidnapper ants

Neil Tsutsui

Professor and Abraham E. & Martha M. Michelbacher Chair of Systematic Entomology,
Department of Environmental Science, Policy & Management
University of California, Berkeley

Ants are abundant and ecologically dominant organisms in many terrestrial habitats. Their success arises from their sophisticated social organization, particularly by specialized workers who perform nearly all of the foraging, defense, nursing, and colony maintenance. In some cases, the enormous benefit of having a large worker population has led to the evolution of social parasitism, in which one species parasitizes the worker behaviors of a different ant species. Remarkable examples of this social parasitism occur in the *Polyergus* kidnapper ants that raid colonies of other ants, kidnap the pupae, and rear them as a captive population of workers. Recent research in my lab has used genetic, chemical, and behavioral approaches to reveal adaptation and speciation of *Polyergus mexicanus* in California. The relatively recent divergence among these lineages suggests that *Polyergus* may be an excellent model system for understanding the evolution of reproductive isolation early in the process of speciation.

とき : 2019年6月21日(金) 13時30分~15時30分

ところ : 京都大学農学部 1階 E-103号室