

## **F22.014: A Detailed Study of Cave Arthropods from Easter Island**

**Faculty mentor:** Jut Wynne

### **Overview**

In 2016, I conducted an island-wide survey to search for endemic arthropods on Rapa Nui (as a Fulbright Scholar). Undergraduates and I have processed all the cliff specimens, and I'll be developing a paper based upon this work. We now need to shift to completing sorting and analysis of cave assemblage. Roughly 3/4 of these materials have been organized. I would like to bring on an undergraduate student to help wrap up this component. As with other projects that undergrads have completed under my mentorship, it will culminate in an Undergraduate Symposium presentation and the possibility of serving as a co-author on peer-reviewed papers. Depending on the sagacity of the student, s/he may also have the ability to lead a paper themselves. Activities: Sort and curate (label and database) insects; capture high-resolution digital imagery of insects; and, using voucher specimens, assist in identifying specimens. Students will also be trained in developing science posters and delivering oral presentations, and contributing to refereed publications. For more information, visit the Cave Ecology Lab website (<https://nau.edu/biological-sciences/cave-ecology-laboratory/>) and/or my website (<http://jutwynne.com/>)

### **What the student will DO and LEARN**

I will train them in arthropod identification, sorting, and basic arthropod taxonomy. They will also learn how to image specimens, develop a scientific poster, present at the Undergraduate Symposium, and learn how the scientific sausage is made.

### **Additional benefits**

Students will develop an understanding of the process involved in scientific research--albeit they'll be dealing solely with the processing and analysis side of this work. They will also learn how the data was collected, why the work is critically important for future conservation efforts on the island, and how their contributions are going to feed into island conservation efforts.

### **Additional qualifications**

Experience is not required. However, preference should be given to biology students and/or students with a general background/interest in entomology.

### **Time commitment**

6 hrs/week for 30 weeks