

# FALL 2011 FACULTY LECTURE SERIES

In Association with

*Curator's Choice: Selections from the UH Museum Consortium*  
Bridge Gallery, Hamilton Library

## Thursday, September 29

### **The UH Insect Museum, Hawaiian Agriculture and Conservation of Biodiversity. *Dead men may tell no tales, but dead bugs do!***

Daniel Rubinoff, PhD

Professor Plant and Environmental Protection Sciences, UHM

The UHIM plays a vital role in defending agriculture and preserving spectacular native biodiversity. Hawai'i faces constant threats from new invasive species, and the decline of our unique insects continues. Insect museums are crucial for understanding and preventing both of these processes—research on fruit flies and diving moths and vampire bugs highlights the museum connection.

Dan Rubinoff started collecting insects as a kid and never stopped. He hopes to see a day when more people will say 'cool' instead of 'eww' when they see a rare Hawaiian insect.



### **Digitizing Plant Biodiversity: The Consortium of Pacific Herbaria**

Tom A. Ranker, PhD

Professor and Chair, Botany, UHM

This presentation will highlight the development of a new collaborative regional effort between herbaria in the Polynesia-Micronesia hotspot region (Hawaii, American Samoa, Samoa, Tonga, Palau, Guam, and Fiji). These herbaria are curating and digitally imaging nearly 1 million dried plant specimens, creating a standardized plant checklist, and making botanical collection data and images available online from a single web portal.

Dr. Ranker's research interests include the origin and evolution of the flora of the Hawaiian islands and of other island floras in the Pacific region. He is involved in phylogenetic systematics and evolution of vascular plants, especially lycophytes and ferns; evolutionary and ecological genetics of plant populations; conservation biology; and historical biogeography.

UH Hamilton Library, Room 301  
Thursdays, 3:30 – 4:30 PM  
Admission free, Refreshments provided  
Doors open at 3:15 PM

Presented by:  
Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Education  
Office of Research Relations  
University of Hawai'i at Manoa Library



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