Sam Houston State University

PUBLIC DEFENSE ANNOUNCEMENT

Clea Garza
Thesis Defense
College of Science and Engineering Technology
Biological Sciences
M.S. Biology

First Insights into the Phylogeny of the Pygmy Backswimmers (Pleidae: Hemiptera: Heteroptera)

Current knowledge of the taxonomy and evolutionary history of the family Pleidae is complicated and understudied. Pleidae was erected as its own family in 1928 with the addition of new genera *Plea, Neoplea,* and *Paraplea* (Eskai & China 1928). These subgenera were based on a formula of tarsal segment numbers, designating each genus with their own specific tarsal formula: *Heteroplea* and *Plea* – 3, 3, 3; *Neoplea* – 3, 2, 3; *Paraplea* – 3, 2, 2 (Eskai & China 1928). The erection of the *Heteroplea* genus posed the question of whether the tarsal formula is a good defining character for genera. This research provides the first phylogeny for the family Pleidae with discussion of variable characters that have been previously used.

Event Information
20 March 2023
1:00 pm
LSB Room 420

Committee Members
Jerry Cook, Ph.D.
Sibyl Bucheli, Ph.D.
Chris Randle, Ph.D.