



Summer Studentship Projects

1. *Assessing the suitability of islands for reptile translocations. Work to be conducted in the Hauraki Gulf*
2. *Role of native forest fragments and edge habitat as foraging environments for native vertebrates.*
3. *Little blue penguins breeding success in the Hauraki Gulf and their role as top predators*
4. *Interactions between brushtail possums.*
5. *Dispersal of young possums and implications for Tb transmission and biocontrol*



Ecology & Conservation Group, INR, Albany Campus, Massey University <http://www.massey.ac.nz/~dhbrunto/>

ASSOC PROF DIANNE H BRUNTON

Room 5.05, Ecology & Conservation Building 5, Oteha Rohe, Albany Campus

Extension 41192 Email: d.h.brunton@massey.ac.nz

Ecology, Conservation and Behaviour

My research has focused on testing and developing theoretical models concerning sexual selection, mating systems, parental care and vocal communication. My research has centred on avian systems particularly involving rare and endangered species. In addition I have a strong interest and background in statistical analysis of behaviour, ecological and evolutionary data. I have also been involved both directly and indirectly in



re-introduction of many species (NI Robin, fernbird, saddleback, tomtit, whitehead, tuatara, and hihi). The aim of our research group at Albany is to advance knowledge and understanding in the fields of ecology, behaviour, and conservation biology by theoretical, experimental, and field research, and to transfer that knowledge through teaching and publication. We plan to achieve this mission by promoting team-work, and setting-up collaborative studies. We encourage the involvement of undergraduates in research activities as a way of enhancing their education and job opportunities.

DR WEIHONG JI

Room 5.07, Ecology & Conservation Building 5, Albany Campus, Extension: 41195

Email: j.j.wei hong@massey.ac.nz

Vertebrate behavioural ecology and wildlife management

My research interests are in conservation biology and vertebrate behavioural ecology. My main focuses are on habitat selection, social behaviour, mating systems, mate choice and implications of such behavioural studies to vertebrate management. I have worked on a range of projects involving Brushtail possums (*Trichosurur vulpecula*) in New Zealand, Golden Monkeys (*Rhinopithecus roxellanae*) in China and Badgers (*Meles meles*) in UK. My work has recently expanded to include mating systems of NZ geckos.



Current Research Projects

Acoustic communication in birds: cognition and function

- ✓ *Bellbird (Anthornis melanura), vocal behaviour*
- ✓ *Evolution of Dialects in Saddleback (Philesturnus carunculatus).*
- ✓ *Song development in grey warblers (Gerygone igata) and shining cuckoos (Chrysococcyx lucidas).*



Mammalian, Reptilian and Avian Ecology and Mating Strategies.

- ✓ *Social interactions, mating success and mate choice in possums*
- ✓ *Mating system, interactions and disease transmission in mammals*
- ✓ *The mating system of the North Island Brown Kiwi*
- ✓ *Sex ratios of the red-crowned kakariki (Cyanoramphus novaezelandiae)*
- ✓ *Behavioural ecology of New Zealand geckos*
- ✓ *Mating system of New Zealand bellbird (Anthornis melanura)*
- ✓ *Investigating the population dynamics of the paradise shelduck*



General Ecology & Conservation

- ✓ *Role of pine plantation invertebrates in native vertebrate diet Little Blue Penguins (Eudyptula minor) as top predators in marine ecosystems: use of time and space.*
- ✓ *Establishing and managing wildlife reserves and sanctuaries in New Zealand*



- ✓ *Habitat selection of golden monkeys and effect of habitat fragmentation*
- ✓ *Behavioural responses of brushtail possums to management*

