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Bio 150 03

Climate Change

P. Jacobson

Lab night follow up assignment

The first presenters were from the “Sex Life of Plants” bio section. Their experimental question dealt with how the different fabrics effect the distance that seeds with barbs are carried. To test this, they used different kinematic methods to test the stability of barbs on theses different fabrics. The experiment is of relevance to scientists’ choice of clothing when working in the field so as not to spread species and manipulate ecosystems.

The group from “Animal Locomotion” wanted to study the differences of human limb length has on gait in running/walking and in swinging and how it compares to those of other primates. They plan to test this by filming volunteers of different proportions swinging on monkey bars and walking/running. This experiment has significance in creating better locomotion for humanoid robotics in things like search and rescue and construction.

The other section of “Climate Change” investigated the effects of CO₂ and temperature on algal blooms. To test this, they did a 2x2 factor design and plan to do factorial ANOVA to interpret their results. The results of this experiment have implications for freshwater resources worldwide, however note that they did not account for limiting nutrients in the desing of their experiment (nutrients were not limited).

The diversity of these experiments and their significances show how the field of biology has a wide range of applications even within a discipline. I found that the other two sections that weren't climate change were lacking in terms of impact and connection to big picture ideas. I know that these connections are there but perhaps the instruction in those classes is not based around making connections? Overall it was good to see how other people approach doing a presentation and experiment.