NUS National University of Singapore | Department of Biological Sciences
Faculty of Science

BIOLOGY COLLOQUIUM

Friday, 10 Mar 2017 | 4pm | DBS Conference Room 1

Hosted by Dr Zeehan Jaafar

Chasing Nurseryfish and Avoiding Crocodiles in Australia's Northern Territory

By **Tim M. Berra**

Academy Professor & Professor Emeritus of Evolution, Ecology and Organismal Biology at The Ohio State University, and University Professorial Fellow at Charles Darwin University in Darwin, Northern Territory, Australia, and Research Associate at the Museums and Art Galleries of the Northern Territory, Australia.

The nurseryfish — *Kurtus gulliveri Castelnau* 1878 (Kurtidae: Perciformes) — occurs in large, turbid rivers of northern Australian and southern New Guinea. It is the only fish species that exhibits forehead brooding, that is, males carry fertilized eggs on a supraoccipital hook. In this talk, I will share findings on this anomalous anatomical feature through histological slides, 3D microtomographic CT scans, and videos of the unusual neurocranium and rib anatomy. Together with data on reproduction and larval development of this species, a hypothesis on the formation of the supraoccipital hook in males is proposed.

About the Speaker:
Dr. Tim M. Berra is an Academy Professor & Professor Emeritus of Evolution, Ecology and Organismal Biology at The Ohio State University, and University Professorial Fellow at Charles Darwin University in Darwin, Northern Territory, Australia, and Research Associate at the Museums and Art Galleries of the Northern Territory. He is a three-time recipient of Fulbright Fellowships to Australia in 1969, 1979, and 2009. Dr. Berra is the author of over 80 scientific papers and 8 books including popular titles such as 'Evolution and the Myth of Creationism' and 'Darwin and His Children: His Other Legacy'. His work on nurseryfishes landed him in the Northern Territory, Australia, where fieldwork can be challenging. Despite the many jumping crocodiles (video evidence during seminar!), he continued his research for 15 years in a total of 8 field seasons.

Artwork by Ann Nee, DBS, NUS