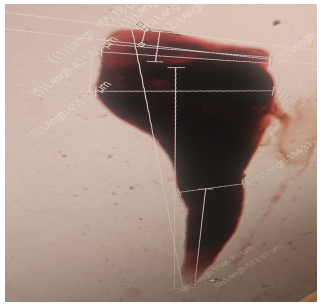
Sam Houston State University

PUBLIC DEFENSE ANNOUNCEMENT



Gladys Banuelos

Thesis Defense
College of Science and Engineering Technology
Department of Biological Sciences
M.S., Biology

Nubenocephalus secundus Infection in Five Species of Damselflies (Odonata: Coenagrionidae) in East Texas

Gregarines are ubiquitous protozoan parasites that infect aquatic and terrestrial invertebrates, especially insects. More than 1,600 gregarine species have been previously described, however, only a small percentage of invertebrates have been surveyed for apicomplexan parasites, thus making the biodiversity of gregarines highly underestimated. Here I conducted a morphological comparison in five damselfly species (*Argia sedula, Argia translata, Argia tibialis, Enallagma civile, and Ischnura posita)* which were dissected and examined for gregarine *Nubenocephalus secundus* infection. Adult damselflies were surveyed in Walker County from May 2022 through August 2023. Our, findings indicate that *A. sedula and A. translata* were parasitized with the same gregarine species (*N. secundus)*, while the other three odonate species were each infected with a different gregarine species.

Event Information
Date: 01 April 2024
Time: 10 PM – 12:30 PM
Location: LSB 400M

Committee Members
Dr. Tamar Cook
Dr. Jerry Cook
Dr. Amber Ulseth