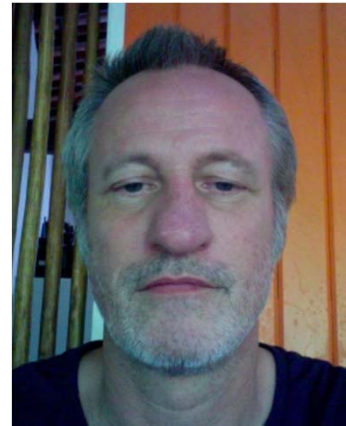


Cold Water and Hot Air: Evolution of Lunglessness in Amphibians

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Lunglessness is rare in Amphibians but has evolved independently at least once in each of the three main groups (frogs, salamanders, caecilians). The 'classical' hypothesis explains lunglessness in salamanders as an adaptation to reduce disadvantageous buoyancy in fast flowing waters. This hypothesis was seriously challenged in the 1990's, before the subsequent discoveries of lungless frogs and caecilians. I will review the arguments in the controversy, discuss the implications of the more recent discoveries, and reveal some important new findings regarding the true nature of the most recently discovered lungless caecilian relevant to my central question "is there a general explanation for the evolution of lunglessness?"



Wednesday August 28th at 14.15
Room 127 (zoofys kaffestue), building 1131