
Department of Environmental & Plant Biology
Colloquium

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Cofounder : Athens Science Café
Sebastopol, CA



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Porter Hall 104 | 11:50am

“Return of the OG: Cannabis, the original cash crop makes a comeback.”

Cannabis fever is taking over the United States. Used medicinally, recreationally and functionally (i.e., fiber, construction, etc.) for millennia, *Cannabis* has a global distribution and deep ties to human culture. In recent history, the *Cannabis* industry in the US has been heavily influenced by its Schedule I classification. Despite this prohibition, *Cannabis* cultivation still persists underground and in isolation. With public opinion quickly changing, more states are legalizing *Cannabis*, enabling the scientific community to investigate this plant, allowing us to pose basic biological questions about genetic diversity and ancestry. To explore the current breadth of genetic diversity in *Cannabis* and how that relates to naming conventions, we present analyses of genome-wide SNP data from a large collection of *Cannabis* accessions. In this talk, I will explore our recent work indicating discrepancies in *Cannabis* labeling and genetic clustering based on classic *Cannabis* ideotypes (i.e., Indica and Sativa). As prohibition of *Cannabis* wanes, understanding genetic diversity and its relationship with cultivar identification is imperative for advancing the *Cannabis* industry across all uses.