**Zoogeography Assignment 7 Due Mon, Mar 11th, 12:00pm**

Ricklefs, R.E. (2008) Disintegration of the ecological community. *American Naturalist* 172: 741-750.

**Instructions:**

* Use your **own words** and provide complete but **concise** answers to the following questions.
* Cite literature appropriately if referenced.
* Typed answers should not exceed 2 pages (e.g. the front and back of this page).
* Hard copy to be handed in by 12:00pm, Monday, March 11th either in class or at the Biodiversity Research Centre Rm 325. No exceptions unless previously arranged with the TA.

1) Describe the two contrasting views of ‘communities’, with reference to how species are distributed along environmental gradients, as reviewed by Whittaker (1975). See: Lecture slides on ‘Geography of Communities’ (Monday’s lecture) to find the two contrasting views, one proposed by Gleason (1926) and the other by Clements (1916). [2 pts]

2a) Describe Ricklefs’ view of the local and regional community in terms of a “vertical perspective” and “horizontal perspective” (i.e. which perspective is local and which is regional, and how are these defined)? [3 pts]

2b) Give 2 examples of factors that influence community composition that are excluded in the “vertical perspective”, and explain how these might influence local community composition/structure. [4 pts]

3a) Give an example of when and why it could be necessary to think of “communities” as discrete, identifiable units on a local scale [2 pts].

3b) Consider these ecological properties: genetic variation of a species’ population AND connectivity/dispersal. How could these properties affect conservation decisions if ecologists took a more regional (i.e. horizontal) view of communities? [4 pts]