

SBSC Weekly Highlights March 12, 2007

SBSC Researcher Find New Genus in Arizona Cave: A new genus of millipede was recently discovered by a Northern Arizona University doctoral student and a Bureau of Land Management researcher. J. Judson Wynne, with the Department of Biology at NAU and cave research scientist with the U.S. Geological Survey's Southwest Biological Center, and Kyle Voyles, Arizona State Cave Coordinator for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), collected specimens leading to the discovery of two new millipede species in caves on opposite sides of the Grand Canyon. Wynne and Voyles, known for their cave research, also discovered a new genus of cricket last spring.

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Restoration Rapid Assessment Tool: USGS ecologists Kathryn Thomas of the Southwest Biological Science Center and Diane Larson of the Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center met with National Park Service (NPS) and Northern Arizona University scientists to work on the Restoration Rapid Assessment Tool (RRATS). RRATS is being developed as automated decision support tool to be used by National Park resource managers and staff to prioritize areas for restoration activities. The first module of RRATS is intended for the evaluation of riparian areas, but can be applied to upland areas also. RRATS version 1 beta will be released later this year through a NPS web site.

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