

## **Field Project**

### **Objectives of the Project**

To test the abundant-centre hypothesis using rocky intertidal species.

To learn skills to write a scientific manuscript using your own data.

### **Steps of the Project**

Data collection at Tor Bay Provincial Park (September 2011)

Data analysis and discussion of results (October 2011)

Preparation of a manuscript (October-November 2011 – **Due on Friday, 2 December 2011**)

### **Guidelines to write the manuscript**

Structure the manuscript using the following sections: Title, Abstract, Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results (including Figures and/or Tables), Discussion and Conclusions, References.

Follow the format for the journal "Hydrobiologia", specified in their "Instructions for Authors":

<http://www.springer.com/life+sciences/ecology/journal/10750>

### **Key topics to include in the Introduction of your manuscript:**

What does the abundant-centre hypothesis predict?

Why? In other words, what is the model or theory from which this hypothesis has been deduced?

Why is the ACH useful? How has it been applied in biology and ecology?

Why is your study system (rocky intertidal zone) useful to test the ACH?

What are your predictions?

### **In your Discussion, make sure that you...**

... explain whether your data support or not your predictions,

why might your data not support your predictions (in case that that is what you found), and

what are the implications of your results for the utility of the ACH in biology and ecology.

In addition, place your results in the context of other studies that have tested the ACH (are certain biological systems or environments better for the ACH to hold?).

### **Value of the Field Project**

20 % of the course final grade