NUS National University of Singapore

Department of Biological Sciences
Faculty of Science

SEMINAR

Wed 5 August 2015 | 4.15pm | DBS Conference Room 2

Hosted by Dr Huang Danwei

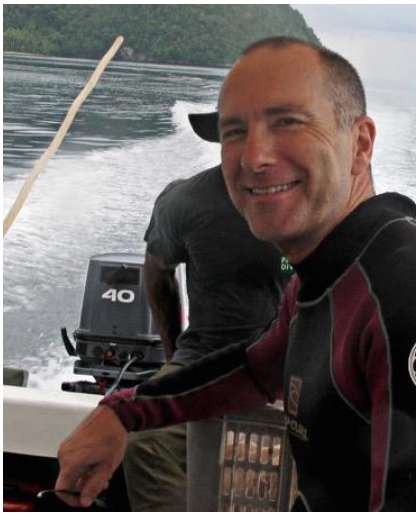
Queens of Decay:

Osedax boneworms and whalefalls

By Greg Rouse
Professor, Scripps Institution of Oceanography

Osedax is a group of annelid worms discovered in 2002 where (generally) the females, with a little help from endosymbiotic bacteria called Oceanospirillales, feed on the bones of whales and other mammals. *Osedax* males are (generally) dwarfs that resemble trochophore larvae. Females can have large "harems" (up to 600 males) of males in their tubes. The known diversity of *Osedax* species is rapidly increasing and the evidence of *Osedax* on fossil plesiosaurs has just been discovered. I will discuss what we know about the biology, life history and phylogeny of this extraordinary group of annelids.







Artwork by Ann Nee, DBS, NUS