

A trick of the light? Development, function and evolution of plant nanostructures that influence animal behaviour

Prof. Beverley Glover, FLS, Dept. of Plant Sciences, University of Cambridge and Director of the Cambridge University Botanic Garden

Monday 6th March 2017

Wolfson Lecture Theatre, Churchill College, Storey's Way, Cambridge, CB3 0DS



Event Information

Membership: You can join CSAR online at csar.org.uk; or at the reception desk in the lecture theatre foyer before the talk. Postgraduate and undergraduate student membership of CSAR is free of charge.

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Location: Wolfson Lecture Theatre, Churchill College, Storey's Way, Cambridge, CB3 0DS

Refreshments: Coffee and biscuits are available in the Wolfson Foyer from around 7pm. Before lectures, attendees are welcome to use the college canteen for dinner (from 5:45pm) and, after lectures, the bar. Cash can be used at both.

Car parking: Attendees may park in the Senior Car Park on Churchill Road off Storey's Way. More parking is available further along Churchill Road, and in the Möller Centre at the far end.

Prof Glover writes:

Flowers and the animals that pollinate them interact at a single key point – the petal surface. It is this single layer of tissue that provides the visual surface that advertises nectar rewards. It is on this layer of tissue that pollinators land. And it is often from this layer of tissue that the scents that attract pollinators over longer ranges are released. Our recent research has focused on the optical effects of the petal surface. The majority of petal morphologies will act to support certain plant/pollinator interactions but not others, leading to greater reproductive isolation and speciation within the flowering plants. I will present recent work on the nanoscale properties of the petal surface, taking molecular developmental, evolutionary and pollinator behavioural perspectives.

Beverley Glover studied Plant and Environmental Biology at the University of St Andrews, before a PhD in plant molecular genetics at the John Innes Centre. In 1996 she moved to Cambridge as a junior research fellow at Queens' College and in 1999 she was appointed a lecturer in the Department of Plant Sciences. In July 2013, she was appointed Director of the Cambridge University Botanic Garden and made Professor of Plant Systematics and Evolution. Her research focuses on the evolution and development of plant traits that attract different animal pollinators.

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