

DR KARL DUFFY - DUBLIN TO KWAZULU-NATAL

Using images and slides from his work in Ireland for his PhD studies, more tantalising ones from his post-doctoral studies in KwaZulu-Natal, a province of South Africa, and some of the sun-drenched, volcanic Mount Etna or Greek olives groves as he searches for more evidence in understanding the invisible interactions of the diminutive *Spiranthes spiralis*.

If I were to bring only one thing away from the talk it was the discussion on the fundamental and the realised niche, the former a theoretical one, the latter an actual one. It was a pleasure to see a larger audience than usual and encouraging to hear such positive feedback from both visitors and members.

BRENDAN SAYERS

During the talk we discovered the beauty and intrigue of the African orchid flora and whether it was, as Karl explained the simplicities of the intra and intersexual conflict between male and female gender functions of the moth pollinated *Satyrium longicauda*, or the Batesian mimicry used by *Disa pulchra* to increase pollination by growing in close proximity to *Watsonia lepida*, one could only marvel at the secret world in which orchids live.



Dr Karl J. Duffy
Ecology, Evolution and Biodiversity
Conservation Section
Institute of Botany and Microbiology,
Kasteelpark Arenberg 31
Katholieke Universiteit Leuven
B-3001 Leuven, Belgium



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