

Population biologists to meet in two day conference

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Some 250 population biologists are expected in San Diego this weekend for a two-day conference titled "Evolutionary Processes in Natural Populations."

Subsidized by a grant from the National Science Foundation, the conference will feature work-shop sessions on Friday at San Diego State College, and on Saturday at the University of California, San Diego. Dr. Michael Soule, of UCSD's biology department, and Dr. Boyd Collier, of State's biology department, will be co-chairmen.

Most of the delegates will be graduate students from west-coast colleges and universities, said Soule. Approximately a fifth of the conferees will be members of faculties representing colleges and universities throughout the country, he said.

Experts from the University of Texas, Harvard, the University of Kansas, Stanford, and the UC campuses at Davis and Santa Barbara are scheduled to address the workshop sessions. Dr. Paul R. Ehrlich, biology professor at Stanford and author of "The Population Bomb," will moderate a discussion scheduled for 1:30 Friday afternoon at UCSD.

"Recent advances in technique have permitted evolution biologists to make really dramatic strides in the past two years in determining what is going on at the genetic level in the evolution of plants and animals," Soule said. "The purpose of this conference is to discuss these techniques and the results obtained, and thus to encourage even more rapid progress in our understanding of the precise mechanisms of evolution."