



National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis

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<http://www.nceas.ucsb.edu>

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NEWS

For Immediate Release

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NCEAS Researcher Wins Paleontology Prize

Santa Barbara, California – John Alroy, Center Research Associate at the [National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis](http://www.nceas.ucsb.edu), has recently been awarded one of the biggest honors a paleontologist can receive, the Charles Schuchert Award. The international Paleontological Society presents this award annually to recognize “one person under 40 whose work in paleontology reflects excellence and promise.” The list of past recipients reads like a who's who of paleontologists.

The award recognizes Dr. Alroy's contributions to paleobiological research, teaching, and the development of quantitative tools. Alroy's diverse research ranges from tracing the evolution of body size in fossil mammals to determining that humans were responsible for the extinction of late Pleistocene mammals.

Alroy's early compilations of fossil data from the literature inspired him to cofound [The Paleobiology Database \(PaleoDB\)](http://paleodb.org), which encompasses the entire fossil record of plants and animals. Alroy became the creative force behind the development and influence of the database, catalyzing research collaborations that would not have been possible without his efforts.

Dr. Peter Wagner, curator at the National Museum of Natural History, who nominated Alroy for the award, stated, “I think that John's biggest contribution to our field – and I cannot emphasize this enough - is that his contributions to [The Paleobiology Database](http://paleodb.org) transcend his own research, or really that of any of the individuals involved. “...as a couple of people noted, they can see a time soon when their graduate students simply will not know what paleontology was like without [The Paleobiology Database](http://paleodb.org) and the phenomenal set of tools that John has provided.”

A native New Yorker, Dr. Alroy is a graduate of Reed College and earned a Ph.D. at the University of Chicago. He has been in residence at NCEAS since 1998, first as a Postdoctoral Fellow, and currently as Associate Researcher.





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About the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis

The National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis (NCEAS) was established in 1995. The organization has hosted more than 3,500 scientists from over 50 countries, and supported more than 430 collaborative projects in ecology and related fields. NCEAS scientists develop new techniques in informatics, and apply general knowledge of ecological systems to specific issues such as the loss of biotic diversity, global change, and sustainability of marine ecosystems. NCEAS is among the top 1 % of 38,000 institutions evaluated for scientific impact in environmental research. NCEAS is funded by the National Science Foundation, the State of California, the University of California, and numerous other donors.

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Note to Editors

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