

Biology 354 – Week 1 Discussion Topics

Download and read the Boag & Grant (1981) – this is the original study of selection on a Galapagos finch.

Download and read Grant & Grant (2003) – this is an update and discusses long-term changes.

In lecture you saw that large bill size of *G. fortis* was favored during a drought in the mid-70s (see also Fig. 5 in Grant & Grant '03), but Fig. 6 in the Grant & Grant article shows that bill size (PC1) started declining in the early 80s.

Speculate on the sequence of factors that might have led to the decline in bill size? [Think about environmental patterns (e.g., rainfall) over time on the Galapagos, and how these might have altered selection on bill size over time.]

What kinds of data would you gather to test your hypothesis (or hypotheses)?

Hand in your answer at the beginning of lab section. Your paper **must be** printed, not hand written. Your name **must be** in the upper right corner (**last name, first name**) – this makes it easier for us to record your score.

Papers longer than 1 page will not be accepted. Use at least a 12 point font. Single space is fine.