

# Charles Darwin Lecture 2014

## Monday Feb. 10, 7:00 pm Weber Music Hall

"Evolution in Darwin's dream ponds: The cichlid fishes of the East African Big Lakes."



Professor Walter Salzburger  
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Sponsored by  
The Large Lakes Observatory, the Water Resources  
Science Graduate Program, the Department of Geological Sciences and  
the Department of Biology, University of Minnesota Duluth

Professor Salzburger's research focuses on the evolution of animals, the adaptation of animals to their environments, and the generation of ecological, morphological, behavioral, and genetic diversity. In particular, he emphasizes the molecular basis of evolution, the processes that underlie adaptation, innovation, and speciation, and the evolution of genes and genomes during adaptive radiation and speciation.

"Cichlid fishes are the most fascinating model organisms to me. These tropical freshwater-fishes show a Gondwanian distribution, with extant representatives in India, Madagascar, South- and Central America, and Africa. With more than 2000 species that evolved in the last few million years only the species flocks of cichlids in the East African Great Lakes Tanganyika, Malawi and Victoria represent the most astounding examples of adaptive radiation and explosive speciation. I am interested in the evolution of the cichlids' unique biodiversity, in the intrinsic factors that underlie the cichlids' propensity for explosive speciation, and in the external (environmental) events that trigger their radiations."



*Prof. Walter Salzburger*