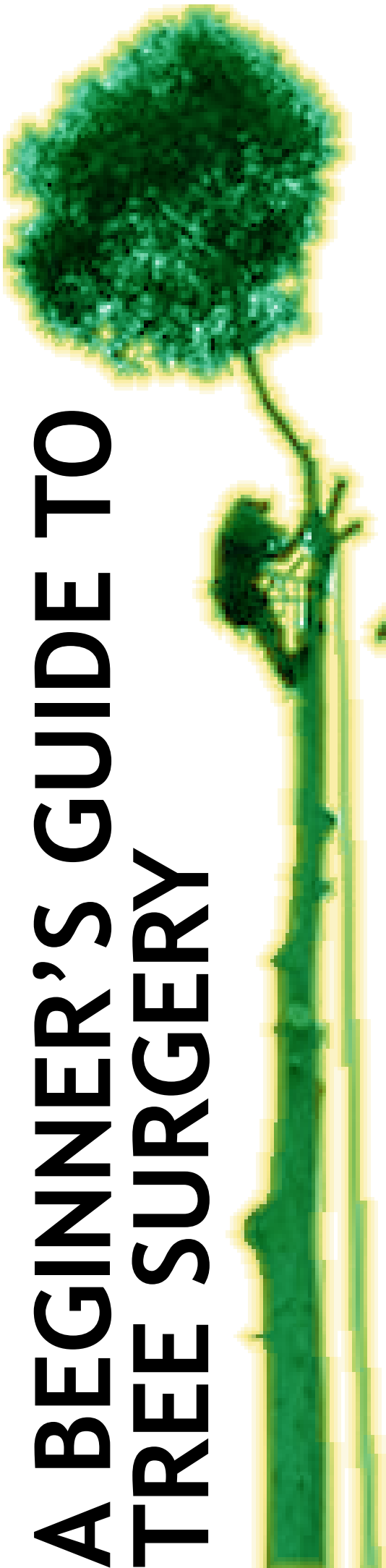


# A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO TREE SURGERY



An occasional series of informal soirées to discuss emerging issues in phylogenetic inference.

Dress casual\*.

Drinks and light snacks will be provided.

**Branch the First: Thursday 23rd November  
3.30 pm Honours Room 1**

**Martin Jones and Richard Challis:**

Hyperpriors and Baygels: A report back from the Bayesian Inference Workshop

**Branch the Second: December  
(exact timings and venue to be confirmed)  
Andy Rambaut will discuss whether there is a phylogenetic signal of punctuated evolution**

(vide Pagel M, Venditti C, Meade A. "Large punctuational contribution of speciation to evolutionary divergence at the molecular level." Science 2006;314:119-21.)

**Branch the Third: early 2007  
(exact timings and venue to be confirmed)  
Sean Nee will discuss a new method for defining taxa from DNA barcode data: the coalescent meets phylogenies**

(vide Pons J, et al. "Sequence-based species delimitation for the DNA taxonomy of undescribed insects" Syst Biol. 2006;55:595-609.)

## Some Useful Tree Surgery Terms

**Crown:** a tree's crown is the whole of the above ground part of the tree with the exception of its main trunk.

**Crown Reduction:** a reduction of the overall size or circumference of a tree's crown by generally reducing overall length of its branches but without destroying the basic shape of the crown.

**Crown Thinning:** removal of a proportion of secondary branches within the tree's crown so as to reduce branch density within the crown. This will often include removal of crossing, weak, dead or damaged branches within the crown.

**Crown Raising/Crown Lifting:** removal of lower branches or parts of branches of the tree to a specific height above existing ground level (e.g. 4 metres) so as to provide increased head clearance beneath the tree.

**Topping:** the cutting out of the top of the tree's crown. Topping is nowadays considered poor practice because it increases vulnerability to disease entry and stimulates abnormal regrowth; it is unusual for us to grant consent for such topping in isolation.

**Pollarding:** a cutting back of all branches of a tree leaving only its trunk or cutting back branches to a lower point for the formation of a new head. Pollarding is also considered poor practice because it increases vulnerability to disease and deformity of a tree's basic shape; again therefore, it is unusual for us to grant consent for pollarding nowadays.

**Deadwooding:** removal of dead and damaged branches back to sound wood.

\* please leave chainsaws at reception