

RUM professor is co-author of article published in the journal Science that sheds new light on the evolutionary history of snakes and lizards ^[1]

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Dr. Timothy J. Colston directs the Genomic Resources Collection at the UPR Mayagüez Campus, which contributed samples to the collaborative study (Photo by Jason Colston).

Timothy J. Colston, Ph.D., associate professor in the Department of Biology and director of the Genomic Resources Collection at the University of Puerto Rico (UPR) Mayagüez Campus (RUM), is one of the co-authors of an article recently published in the prestigious scientific journal *Science*, which provides a new analysis of the evolutionary history of all snakes and lizards using genomic-scale DNA sequences and fossil data.

As a collaborative effort between several universities and museums, Dr. Colston is part of a team of researchers, led by Dr. Daniel Rabosky and Dr. Pascal Title of Michigan University and Stony Brook University, respectively, in the study that generated the largest and most complete evolutionary tree of these reptiles by sequencing partial genomes of nearly 1,000 species.

Much of the extensive work was done in the laboratory of Dr. Robert Alexander Pyron at The George Washington University (GWU) and samples from the Genomic Resources Collection of the UPR Mayagüez campus were used.

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