NATURE VANCOUVER

VANCOUVER NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

MARINE BIOLOGY SECTION

Convergent Corallines:

Evolution and Biomechanics in Calcified Red Algae

Dr. Kyra Janot

Photos: Kyra Janot

Photo: Laura Liggan

7:30 PM

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Unitarian Hewett Centre – 949 49th Ave W.

49th Avenue at Oak St, Vancouver

Corallines are a group of diverse, abundant and charismatic seaweeds found in a range of marine habitats worldwide. These algae are notable for being calcified, which gives them a rigid, rock-like appearance and a characteristic pink colour. Some coralline species grow as crusts, and can act as the "cement" that holds large reef structures together. Other species take on highly branching or foliose forms, and still others grow as rhodoliths, which tumble across the sea floor. No matter which form they take, corallines are a key source of both food and habitat for the organisms around them. This talk will address some of the unique challenges faced by corallines due to their calcified structure and the interesting ways in which these challenges are overcome.

Dr. Kyra Janot is a phycologist (seaweed scientist) specializing in coralline biomechanics and evolution. She is currently working as a Biology instructor at Langara College.

Marine Biology Section evening programs are held from January through April and September through November, on the second Thursday of the month (this month is an exception). **Programs are free**, open to the public, and members are encouraged to invite their friends. Nature Vancouver events website - www.naturevancouver.ca