2016 Sears Public Lecture

Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Program

Professor Mimi Koehl
Univ. of California, Berkeley

Thursday, August 4th, 2:00 pm
Redfield Auditorium, WHOI
Reception to follow at Walsh Cottage

"Swimming and crawling in a turbulent world"

Many bottom-dwelling marine animals produce microscopic larvae that are dispersed to new sites by ambient water currents. How do these larvae manage to land on the sea floor in suitable habitats? We study this question using larvae of the Hawaiian sea slug, Phestilla sibogae, which must settle on reefs where their prey, the coral Porites compressa, is abundant. These larvae allow us to address the more general question of how the locomotion of microscopic organisms swimming or crawling across the substratum is affected by turbulent water currents and waves in marine habitats.