

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
The University of Michigan
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

Diarmaid Ó Foighil, associate professor of ecology and evolutionary biology, with tenure, and associate curator, Museum of Zoology, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to professor of ecology and evolutionary biology, with tenure, and curator, Museum of Zoology, College of Literature, Science and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	1987	University of Victoria
B.S.	1981	National University of Ireland

Professional Record:

2001 – present	Associate Professor, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, and Associate Curator, Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan
1995 – 2001	Assistant Professor, Department of Biology, and Assistant Curator, Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan
1993 – 1995	Research Associate Professor, University of South Carolina
1989 – 1992	Postdoctoral Fellow, Simon Fraser University
1988 – 1989	Independent Researcher, Bamfield Marine Station
1987	Postdoctoral Fellow, Friday Harbor Laboratories, University of Washington

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching - Professor Ó Foighil has demonstrated a high level of ability and commitment to teaching at all levels. He has taught large enrollment introductory biology courses and used a variety of effective methods and resources to engage students. He has directed numerous undergraduate research projects and all of them have resulted in student publications. He has chaired or co-chaired five doctoral committees and served on an additional fifteen.

Research – Professor Ó Foighil is an evolutionary biologist specializing in mollusks, a species-rich invertebrate group occupying ecologically diverse habitats including marine, fresh water, and terrestrial ecosystems. He is respected for the depth and breadth of his research and his integrative approach to problems. He has published 36 papers in the highest quality journals. The articles that resulted from his work on the phylogeography of Caribbean scorched mussels, *Brachidontes*, challenge popular biogeographic scenarios and are considered benchmark studies. His work is widely cited by marine biologists. He has been consistently well funded and has been invited to participate in several national and international symposia.

Recent and Significant Publications:

“Confirmation that the North American ancyliid *Ferrissia fragilis* (Tryon, 1863) is a cryptic invader of European and East Asian freshwater ecosystems,” with A. C. Walther, *Journal of Molluscan Studies*, 72, 2006, pp. 318-321.

“Placing the Floridian marine genetic disjunction into a regional evolutionary context using the ‘scorched mussel’ *Brachidontes exustus* species complex,” with T. Lee, *Evolution*, 59, 2005, pp. 2139-2358.

“Hidden Floridian biodiversity: Mitochondrial and nuclear gene trees reveal four cryptic species within a scorched mussel, *Brachidontes exustus*, species complex,” with T. Lee, *Molecular Ecology*, 13, 2004, pp. 3527-3542.

“6-Phosphogluconate dehydrogenase (PGD) allele phylogeny is incongruent with a recent origin of polyploidization in some North American Sphaeriidae (Mollusca: Bivalvia),” with T. Lee, *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution*, 25, 2002, pp. 112-124.

Service – Professor Ó Foighil’s service has been exemplary. He has been an active participant on many departmental committees, including the Executive Committee, the Graduate Affairs, Committee, and numerous faculty search committees, as well as serving as associate chair for curriculum. He developed the first concentration and minor curricular programs for the department, and initiated a review of introductory biology that resulted in a thorough revision of requirements and sequences of courses for the biology concentration. Professor Ó Foighil is a valued mentor to junior faculty and an enthusiastic advisor to all students. At the national and international level, he has served on National Science Foundation review panels for the Program in Systematic Biology. He was President of the American Malacological Society and serves on the editorial board of several major journals, including *Malacology*, *Nautilus*, and *Evolution*.

External Reviews:

Reviewer (A)

“...he represents what I would refer to as a perfect example of a modern ‘holistic’ taxonomist who has the intellectual capacity and philosophical drive to push biodiversity research into new directions and to promote this discipline among students...”

Reviewer (B)

“He is the established world specialist of certain taxonomic groups...while simultaneously having become THE leading researcher into patterns of molluscan speciation and life history trait evolution. ...his *Evolution* papers...have become instant classics and have been/will be extensively cited.”

Reviewer (C)

“His teaching statement is one of the best I have ever read for any promotion review, and he has clearly been very successful in obtaining funding both for his research and for your department.”

Reviewer (D)

“...his contributions are almost always substantial, data-rich and scholarly. They are usually well-placed in the context of issues such as bioinvasions, biogeography and biodiversity... ..he presents a thoughtful and self-critical evaluation of his teaching. This is admirable and suggests that he is an instructor of integrity and quality.”

Reviewer (E)

“...he is fast becoming a world leader in the study of molluscan life history evolution and development, especially for bivalve and freshwater groups.”

Reviewer (F)

“Prof. Ó Foighil is an evolutionary biologist whose research spans an impressively broad range of topics. ... This breadth...is all the more remarkable in that he contributes and publishes at the highest level... All topics are of current relevance and wide international interest and...are eminently fundable. It is clear that he makes a highly significant contribution to the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, both as researcher and teacher.”

Reviewer (G)

“His research has implications for the population biology and evolution of many groups of organisms. ... He has substantially changed my views on evolution in the sea.”

Reviewer (H)

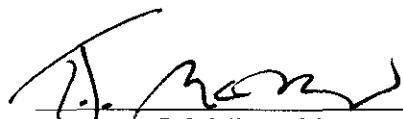
“His contributions are always lively, interesting and thought provoking and his interests encompass a wide variety of subjects. In my opinion he gave probably the most stimulating paper at the recent Bivalvia 2006 meeting in Barcelona.”

Reviewer (I)

“Ó Foighil clearly is a fine malacologist with a molecular-phylogenetic orientation, a solid scientist...whose contributions are worthwhile.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Ó Foighil is a dedicated and effective teacher and researcher who has maintained a high quality, productive research program and is recognized as a leading researcher in his field. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Associate Professor Diarmaid Ó Foighil be promoted to the rank of professor of ecology and evolutionary biology, with tenure, and curator in the Museum of Zoology, in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.



Terrence J. McDonald
Arthur F. Thurnau Professor,
Professor of History, and Dean
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

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