

## Presentation of MAR-ECO Students

**Name:** Eric Leiser

**Nationality:** United States



**Institution:** Institute of Biology, University of Bergen (UIB), Norway

**e-mail:** eleiser@gmail.com

**Degree:** MS Student

**Working title of project:** *Genetic Studies on the Crustacean order Lophogastrida*

**Supervisors:** Prof. Endre Willasen (UIB), (UIB), post.doc. Kenneth Meland (UIB)

**Summary of Project:** In 2004, the MAR-ECO project attained a number of specimens of the order Lophogastrida along the Mid-Atlantic Ridge. These shrimp-like organisms are found throughout the world's oceans and range in size from five to 50 mm. My research will continue work on the Lophogastrida collection by using molecular techniques to describe the populations found along the Mid-Atlantic Ridge. The COI mtDNA and 18S rDNA genes will be used to describe the variation between the seven different species and the regions where each were caught. We will use the data to illustrate the phylogenetic relationships and complement our results with sequences of similar species from other remote locations. The work will lend itself to further projects such as genetic barcoding or a broader phylogenetic analysis of all the known species of Lophogastrida. This is a rewarding project because these organisms are so infrequently studied and yet provide a valuable link to the higher crustaceans.