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Rapid Museum

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Note on the Text

How has human communication with the earth (in the form of climate change) affected its language (the shape of stream beetles) and specifically its lexicon (in this case, samples of stream beetles found in museums)? How quickly is this language changing? How urgently is it sending communications back to us?

Rapid Museum is a visual poem based on a scientific (ecology/biology) paper by Jennifer Babin-Fenske, Madhur Anand and Yves Alarie: "Rapid morphological change in stream beetle museum specimens correlates with climate change." Madhur Anand's poetry collection, *A New Index for Predicting Catastrophes* (McClelland and Stewart, 2015), uses some textual material directly taken from her own scientific articles, and she invited me to similarly take text from one of her articles and explore how it might be used in a poem. I created a visual poem but also a video poem (<http://bit.ly/2adz9d5>) incorporating the visual poem and audio derived from the text of the article.

Thanks to Madhur Anand for inviting me to explore the artistic possibilities of her scientific texts.

Works Cited

Babin-Fenske, J., Anand, M. and Alarie, Y. (2008), Rapid morphological change in stream beetle museum specimens correlates with climate change. *Ecological Entomology*, 33: 646–651. doi: 10.1111/j.1365-2311.2008.01018.x

GARY BARWIN is a writer, composer, and multimedia artist and the author of 20 books of poetry and fiction, including the recent national bestselling novel, *Yiddish for Pirates*. *No TV for Woodpeckers*, a new poetry collection, will appear from Wolsak & Wynn in 2017. Barwin was writer-in-residence at Western University last year and currently teaches at Mohawk College and is writer-in-residence in several youth shelters and custody facilities in Hamilton, Ontario.