

CURRICULUM VITAE

AARON N. SEXTON

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EDUCATION

- 2021 Ph.D. University of Louisville, Department of Biology (Ecology track)
Advisor: Dr. Sarah Emery
- 2013-17 B.A. University of Denver, Ecology & Biodiversity
Advisor: Dr. Robin Tinghitella

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2020 Adjunct Faculty, Spalding University
- 2018-pres. Educational Consultant, Idlewild Insectarium. Developer and instructor for a series of educational courses open to the public at an urban insectarium. Work includes lectures and workshops covering a variety of entomological topics for ages 13+, depending on the course.
- 2013-17 Research Technician, University of Denver. Responsibilities: data collection, insect rearing, manuscript and proposal writing.
- 2016 Research Technician, Bonanza Creek LTER Alaska. Part of a team working with the LTER, USFS and Alaska DNR to collect data in the field and implementing a large-scale field study.

GRANTS AND AWARDS

- 2017-21 University of Louisville, Graduate Fellowship, \$44,000
- 2020 Kentucky Native Plant Society, \$500
- 2020 Beechmont Garden Club, \$1,000
- 2019 University of Louisville Graduate School of Arts & Sciences, \$248
- 2019 National Science Foundation, Graduate Research Fellowship, Honorable Mention
- 2018 Kentucky Academy of Sciences, Marcia Botany Fund, \$1,565
- 2018 Kentucky Natural History Society, \$800
- 2018 University of Louisville College of Arts & Sciences, \$500
- 2018 University of Louisville Biology Graduate Student Association, \$175
- 2018 University of Louisville Graduate School of Arts & Sciences, \$250
- 2016 University of Denver, Dean's Scholarship, \$500
- 2015-16 University of Denver, H&B Agnew Scholarship, \$500

PUBLICATIONS

- Sexton, A. N.**, S. F. Benton, A. B. Browning, and S. M. Emery. Urbanization increases survivorship, but not fecundity of solitary cavity-nesting bees. *Urban Ecosystems* (in review).

- Sexton, A. N.** and S. M. Emery. 2020. Grassland restorations improve pollinator communities: a meta-analysis. *Journal of Insect Conservation*, DOI: 10.1007/s10841-020-00247-x.
- Jenck, C. S., W. R. Lehto, B. T. Ketterman, L. F. Sloan, **A. N. Sexton**, and R. M. Tinghitella. 2019. Phenotypic divergence among threespine stickleback that differ in nuptial coloration. *Ecology & Evolution*, DOI: 10.1002/ece3.6105.

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

- 2020 Sexton, A.N., Emery, S.M., Benton, S., Browning, A., *Urbanization and native plants: How local and landscape level factors influence solitary bee communities*. Ecological Society of America
- 2020 Sexton, A.N., Garces, K.R., *Urbanization influences floral reproductive output but not floral phenology*. Graduate Network of Arts & Sciences Symposium
- 2019 Sexton, A.N., Emery, S.M., *Floral phenology influenced by soil moisture, not urbanization*. Kentucky Academy of Sciences
- 2019 Sexton, A.N., *How urban areas are influencing plant-pollinator interactions*. Graduate Student Council Research Conference
- 2019 Sexton, A.N., Emery, S.M., Benton, S., *Floral phenology influenced by soil moisture, not urbanization*. Ecological Society of America
- 2018 Sexton, A.N., Emery, S.M., *Can urban prairie restorations support stable solitary bee communities?* Graduate Network of Arts & Sciences Symposium

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor

- 2019-20 Environmental Biology (BIOL 263), University of Louisville
Instructor of record for both lecture and lab. (24 Students)
Instruction was face-to-face in 2019 and hybrid in 2020. Responsibilities: course design, lecturing, assessment & lab management
- 2020 Environmental Science (ENVS-101), Spalding University
Instructor of record for Environmental Science. (12 students)
Taught as an Adjunct Faculty, taught online because of COVID-19.
Responsibilities: course design, lecturing & assessment

Teaching Assistant

- 2020 Quantitative Biology (BIOL 244), University of Louisville
Teaching the lab section of Quantitative Biology (60 students)
Responsibilities: lecturing, lab management & assessment.
- 2017-18 Laboratory for Biology: Current Issues and Applications (BIOL 104), University of Louisville. Teaching lab section (80 students/semester)
Responsibilities: lecturing, lab management & assessment. Lab design in 2018.

Guest Lecturing

- 2019 Chemical Ecology, University of Louisville (30 students),
“Bee Pollen and Parasitism”
- 2018 Current Issues & Applications of Biology, University of Louisville (300 students),
“Meiosis and Gametogenesis”

Undergraduate Research Supervision and Mentoring

- 2020 Marissa Huber
Guided on pollinator observations, floral phenology counts, biomass data collection and general data formatting and storage.
Project title: *Effects of urbanization and pollinator limitation on Chamaecrista fasciculata*
- 2019-20 Adam Browning
Guided on floral phenology data collection, pollen storage and identification and general data formatting and storage. Guided on grant writing.
Project title: *Can bee pollen usage protect solitary bees against parasitism?*
Received two grants during mentorship
Awarded Summer Research Opportunity grant (\$3,000)
- 2018-19 Lisa Heng (High School Student)
Guided on field work, data collection, arthropod identification
How does land management affect tick abundances in urban parks?
2nd place Regional & State Science Fair
- 2018 Kristen Ehringer
Guided on pollen storage and identification
- 2018-19 Sarah Fosnight
Guided on floral phenology data collection, plant biomass processing and method development.
Awarded Summer Research Opportunity grant (\$3,000)
- 2018-19 Heather Griffith
Guided on field work, soil processing and experimental design
- 2016-17 Tutor, University of Denver
Tutor for students enrolled in Ecology courses and labs

OUTREACH

- 2020 Kentucky Master Gardener Conference, invited speaker: *“Whats the buzz? Natural history, ecology and maintenance of solitary bees*
- 2020 Beer with a Scientist, invited speaker & organizer: *Urbanization and native plants: impacts on solitary bee communities*
- 2019-20 TriBeta Association, Entering Graduate School Panel, Panelist

2018-20 Kentucky Science Center STEMinar Series, invited speaker: *Urbanization and native plants: impacts on solitary bee communities*

2018-20 Manual High School, Science Fair Judge

2019 WCHQ Community Spotlight, Interview

2019 Louisville Metro Parks Department, Safety event teaching students about plants and insects in the parks

2019 Chance Elementary, Earth Day Event, invited speaker discussing pollinators

2019 Manual High School, Mentor for STEM research and careers

2018-19 Central High School, advisor for science fair project

2018-19 Moore Middle School, Day of Science event. Students visiting the University of Louisville, engaging them in the scientific process, plants, seed dispersal and experimentation

MEMBERSHIPS

Ecological Society of America

Sigma Xi

Kentucky Academy of Science

Biology Graduate Student Association

President 2020-pres.

Outreach Chair 2019-20

Science Policy and Outreach Group

Kentucky Society of Natural History