

## AARON N. SEXTON

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### EDUCATION

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- 2017-pres. Ph.D. University of Louisville, Department of Biology (Ecology track)  
Advisor: Dr. Sarah Emery  
Dissertation Title: “*Local and landscape level effects of urbanization on wild bees and their floral resources.*”
- 2013-17 B.A. University of Denver, Ecology & Biodiversity  
Advisor: Dr. Robin Tinghitella

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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- 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.

### PUBLICATIONS

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- Sexton, A. N.**, S. F. Benton, and S. M. Emery. Urbanization and plant diversity influence different parameters of floral phenology. (*in peer-review at Ecology*)
- 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*.
- Sexton, A. N.** and S. M. Emery. 2020. Grassland restorations improve pollinator communities: a meta-analysis. *Journal of Insect Conservation*.
- 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*.

### GRANTS AND AWARDS

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- 2017-21 University of Louisville, Graduate Fellowship, \$44,000
- 2021 Cornett Entomological Research Grant, \$500
- 2021 Furnish Teaching Award, Top Graduate Student Teacher in Biology Dept.
- 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 (*Two-time awardee*)

### **PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS**

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- 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**

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#### **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)  
 Adjunct Faculty. taught online because of COVID-19. Responsibilities: course design, lecturing & assessment

#### **Teaching Assistant**

- 2021 Diversity of Life (BIOL 242), University of Louisville  
 Teaching the recitation section of Diversity of Life (40 students)  
 Responsibilities: lecturing, lab management & assessments
- 2020-21 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.

### **Undergraduate Research Supervision and Mentoring**

2020-pres Ally Michels  
Guided on floral phenology data collection and storage, plant watering, root and shoot biomass collection.  
Project title: *Effects of soil microbes on above and belowground biomass on Chamaecrista fasciculata.*

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 totaling \$3,500

2018-19 & 2021 Lisa Heng (High School Student and again as Undergraduate)  
Guided on field work, data collection, arthropod identification  
*How does land management affect tick abundances in urban parks?*  
2<sup>nd</sup> 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

### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

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2021 FirstBuild Video Series, Bee expert, “*Prototyping A Solitary Bee Bath House For Home Conservation, Gardening, And Pollination*”

2021 Kentucky Conservations Conversations, Radio interview

2021 Jefferson County Master Gardener Conference, invited speaker. “*Whats the buzz? Natural history, ecology and maintenance of solitary bees*”

2020 Forward Radio, Interview

2020-21 Lead Organizer, University of Louisville Biology Dept. Fall Seminar Series

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

2018-20 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**

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Ecological Society of America

University of Louisville Biology Graduate Student Association

**President** 2020-2021

**Outreach Chair** 2019-20

Sigma Xi

Kentucky Academy of Science

Kentucky Society of Natural History

Louisville Science Policy and Outreach Group