

## AARON N. SEXTON

Fondation pour la recherche sur la biodiversité  
Centre de Synthèse et d'Analyse sur la Biodiversité : Montpellier, France  
aaron.sexton.@fondationbiodiversite.fr • aaronsexton.com • (he/him)

### EDUCATION

---

- 2022 Ph.D. University of Louisville, Biology, Advisor: Sarah Emery  
Dissertation: “*Plant-pollinator communities responsive to local and landscape level factors in grassland restorations.*”
- 2017 B.A. University of Denver, Ecology & Biodiversity  
Advisor: Robin Tinghitella

### PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

---

- 2022-pres. **Postdoctoral Fellow**, Fondation pour la recherche sur la biodiversité Centre de Synthèse et d'Analyse sur la Biodiversité  
Project : NAVIDIV - *Inland navigation infrastructures and biodiversity: impacts and opportunities for waterwayscape management.* Advisor: Alienor Jeliakov
- 2020-21 **Adjunct Faculty**, Spalding University – *Environmental Science*
- 2018-22 **Educational Consultant**, Idlewild Insectarium. Developer and instructor for a series of educational courses open to the public at an urban insectarium.
- 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

---

- Sexton, A.N.**, Garces, K. R., Huber, M.R., Emery, S.M. 2022. Urban grassland restorations have reduced plant fitness but not pollinator limitation. (*in peer-review, manuscript available upon request*)
- Sexton, A. N.**, Benton S. F., and Emery, S. M. 2022. Urbanization and plant diversity influence different parameters of floral phenology. (*in peer-review, manuscript available upon request*)
- Sexton, A. N.**, Benton S. F., Browning, A. B., and Emery S. M. 2020. Reproductive patterns of solitary cavity-nesting bees responsive to both local and landscape factors. *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

---

- 2017-21 University of Louisville, Graduate Fellowship, \$44,000
- 2021 Cornett Entomological Research Grant, \$500
- 2021 Furnish Teaching Award, Top Graduate Student Teacher in U of L Biology Dept.
- 2020 Joan Ehrenfeld Award (*Top Student Presentation in Urban Ecology at ESA*)
- 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

---

- 2021 Sexton, A.N., Benton, S., Emery, S.M., *Urbanization and plant diversity influence different aspects of floral phenology*. Ecological Society of America
- 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-of-Record

- 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.
- 2020-21 Environmental Science (ENVS-101), Spalding University  
Instructor of record for Environmental Science. (12 students)  
Adjunct Faculty.

## 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

- 2020-21 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.*
- 2020-21 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
- 2018-22 Lisa Heng (High School and Undergraduate) – Guided on field work, data collection, arthropod identification. Project title: *How doe1s 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 (Ecology courses and labs)

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

---

- 2021 “Botany of Christmas” invited talk, Yew Dell Botanical Gardens
- 2021 “Other Pollinators” invited talk, Yew Dell Botanical Gardens
- 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**

---

Société Française d'Écologie et d'Évolution (2022-pres)

Ecological Society of America (2019-pres)

University of Louisville Biology Graduate Student Association (2018-2022)

**President** 2020-2021

**Outreach Chair** 2019-20

## **SKILLS**

---

Plant rearing in field, greenhouse and climate-controlled settings

Uni- and multi-variate data analyses

Extensive knowledge of plant ecology

Experimental and observational research

Fluent in R, QGIS, ArcMAP and Microsoft

Effective presentation skills

Documentation, scientific and report writing

Building and maintaining collaborations

Training, mentoring and leading team members