

CURRICULUM VITAE

Morgan N. Thompson

Department of Entomology
University of Maryland
College Park, MD 20742

Email: mthomps1@terpmail.umd.edu

CURRENT POSITION

Graduate Student: Research Assistantship, Lamp Lab, Department of Entomology, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742 (September 2016-Present)

- Research: My thesis project aims to explore the effect of aboveground insect herbivory on belowground interactions between beneficial soil microbes and plant roots. I am conducting both greenhouse and field studies to examine this question. Other responsibilities in the lab include managing fieldwork and processing samples for our ongoing alfalfa project, aiding in research on the kudzu bug, and assisting in fieldwork for our biodiversity of agricultural ditches project.
- P.I.: Dr. William Lamp 301-405-3959; lamp@umd.edu

EDUCATION

Pending: M.S. in Entomology, University of Maryland, College Park, MD (May 2019)

- Cumulative G.P.A. 3.96
- Advisor: Dr. William Lamp
- Thesis: Evaluating the effect of potato leafhopper (Family: Cicadellidae) feeding on biological nitrogen fixation of alfalfa (*Medicago sativa*)

B.S. in Biology, College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, VA (May 2016)

- Cumulative G.P.A. 3.38
- Advisor: Dr. Matthias Leu
- Honors Thesis: The effect of climate variation on population dynamics of butterfly species across southeastern Virginia

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Entomology • Agroecology • Insect Ecology • Plant-Insect Interactions • Integrated Pest Management • Landscape Ecology • Community Ecology • Ecosystem Ecology • Agricultural Entomology

PAST POSITIONS

GIS Analyst & Co-Fieldwork Leader, Applied Conservation & Ecological Research Lab, Department of Biology, College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, VA 23187 (May 2014-August 2015)

- Research: Collected presence/absence data on butterfly species throughout Southeastern Virginia by walking transects at nine different study sites. This data, along with landscape factors derived from GIS and vegetation plots analyzed in the field, was used to create occupancy models for different butterfly species. Urban development, forest types, and edges of habitat fragmentation were utilized in the modeling.
- P.I.: Dr. Matthias Leu 757-221-7497; mleu@wm.edu

Fieldwork Leader, Applied Conservation & Ecological Research Lab, Department of Biology, College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, VA 23187 (May 2015-August 2015)

- Research: Presence/absence data collected in the previously described project determined Zebra swallowtail butterflies (*Eurytides marcellus*) preferred one study site over all others. To study this preference, I applied for and was granted permits to conduct a mark-release-recapture study on the Zebra swallowtail.
- P.I.: Dr. Matthias Leu 757-221-7497; mleu@wm.edu

PUBLICATIONS

1. Thompson, M.N., E. Fleishman, R.D. Scherer, A.L. Zappalla, and M. Leu (In Prep) Effects of variation in weather on turnover of butterflies with different life histories. *J. of Research on the Lepidoptera*.
2. Thompson, M.N. and W.O. Lamp (2017) Pest alert: kudzu bugs found on Maryland soybeans. University of Maryland Extension: Crop News Alert.

PRESENTATIONS

- **Entomological Society of America Annual Meeting, Oral Presentation** (November 2018, Vancouver, BC) “Can aboveground potato leafhopper (*Empoasca fabae*) feeding disrupt belowground nitrogen fixation in alfalfa?”
- **Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting, Oral Presentation** (August 2018 New Orleans, LA) “Connecting a belowground mutualism to aboveground herbivory: microbe-plant-insect interactions”
- **International Integrated Pest Management Symposium, Poster Presentation** (March 2018 Baltimore, MD) “Comparing Patterns of Injury Associated with Potato Leafhopper (Family: Cicadellidae) Feeding Across Different Alfalfa (*Medicago sativa*) Cropping Systems”
- **Entomological Society of America, Eastern Branch, Oral Presentation** (March 2018 Annapolis, MD) “Comparing patterns of injury caused by potato leafhopper (Cicadellidae) on nitrogen production across different alfalfa (*Medicago sativa*) cropping systems”
- **Bioscience Day Poster Presentation** (November 2017 University of Maryland, College Park, MD) “Comparing Patterns of Injury Associated with Potato Leafhopper (Family: Cicadellidae) Feeding Across Different Alfalfa (*Medicago sativa*) Cropping Systems”
- **Undergraduate Honors Thesis Defense** (April 2016 The College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, VA) “The effect of climate variation on population dynamics of butterfly species across southeastern Virginia”

GRANTS & AWARDS

- **Northeast SARE Graduate Student Grant** (July 2018-April 2019), Northeast SARE (Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education), \$8,804
- **Student Section Travel Award** (July 2018) Ecological Society of America, \$300
- **Gahan Fellowship Award** (2016-2017, 2017-2018, 2018-2019) University of Maryland, Department of Entomology, *in total-* \$34,410
- **Charlie Mitter Travel Award** (April 2018) University of Maryland, Department of Entomology, \$250
- **First Place: Bioscience Day Poster Competition** (November 2017) Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Science Category, University of Maryland
- **Dean’s Fellowship Award** (2016-2017) University of Maryland, Graduate School, \$5,000
- **Research Grant** (May 2015) Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program, \$3,000

STUDENTS MENTORED

Nina McGranahan, High School Student, Science & Technology Internship (June 2018-May 2019)
Cameron Anderson, High School Student, Science & Technology Internship (September 2017-May 2018)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Maryland

- Fall 2018: Teaching Assistant (Lecture) BSCI207: Principles of Biology III
- Spring 2018: Teaching Assistant (Laboratory) BSCI337: Biology of Insects
- Fall 2017: Teaching Assistant (Lecture/Discussion) BSCI126: Pollinators In Crisis
- Spring 2017: Teaching Assistant (Lecture/Laboratory) BSCI170/171: Principles of Molecular and Cellular Biology
- Fall 2016: Teaching Assistant (Lecture) BSCI370: Principles of Evolution

OUTREACH

- **Social Chair, UMD Entomological Student Organization** (August 2017-May 2018) Organized numerous social events for graduate students and post-docs, as well as two major department-wide events
- **Volunteer Coordinator for Maryland Day, Campus-Wide Community Outreach** (January 2018-April 2018) Organized volunteers for “Discover A Swamp,” implemented set-up of the exhibit, and coordinated with Maryland Day director
- **High School Science Fair Judge** (March 2018) Assessed student posters and provided students with constructive criticism on their research projects
- **Volunteer for Maryland Day, Campus-Wide Community Outreach** (April 2017) Taught members of the community about insects through two exhibits: “Discover A Swamp” and “The Insect Zoo”

RELEVANT COURSEWORK

Graduate:

Insect Ecology • Insect Diversity & Classification • Arthropod Form & Function • Arthropod Pests of Agricultural Crops • Insect Physiology & Molecular Biology • Biostatistics • Experimental Design & Statistical Analysis • Topics & Techniques in Genomic Research for the Applied Biologist • R Programming & Analyses for Community Ecology • Scientific Writing Seminar • Biological Science Teaching Seminar

Graduate Short Course:

Ecosystem Ecology, The Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies, Millbrook, NY (January 2017)

Undergraduate:

General Entomology • Zoology • Botany • Evolution of Organisms • GIS for Biologists • Evolutionary Ecology • Molecular Cell Biology • Molecular Genetics • How To Feed The World in 2050 • Biochemistry • General Chemistry • Organic Chemistry • Physics for Life Sciences • Calculus • Ecology and Ethics

RESEARCH SKILLS

Laboratory Techniques

gas chromatography mass spectrometry • insect rearing • insect curation (general and specific expertise in Lepidoptera) • plant sample processing • PCR

Field Techniques

GPS • mark-recapture • insect identification (general and specific expertise in Lepidoptera) • vegetation sampling • insect sampling (sweep, bowl trap, pitfall trap, malaise trap)

Computer Programs

SAS • R • ArcGIS 10 • Microsoft Access/Excel/Word/PowerPoint • Geospatial Modelling Environment • FragStat • ImageJ

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Ecological Society of America (January 2018-Present)

Entomological Society of America, Member (February 2017-Present)

Phi Sigma Pi National Honor Fraternity, President of the Gamma Psi Chapter (January 2015-2016)