

Alison A. Bockoven

Curriculum Vitae

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Department of Entomology
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CURRENT POSITION

Research Associate, University of Arizona
NIH Postdoctoral Excellence in Research and Teaching fellowship (3 years)
Aug 2015-Present
Mentor: Dr. Martha Hunter

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Entomology, Texas A&M University, 2009-2015
Advisor: Dr. Micky Eubanks
M.S. student, Zoology, Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, 2008-2009
Advisor: Dr. Michael Sears (*incomplete; advisor relocated*)
B.Sc. Biology, Texas A&M University, 2004-2008
Minor: Spanish

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- **Postdoctoral Project: Variation in host-endosymbiont interactions**
*Studying the effect of host nuclear background and community structure on the conditional fitness benefits of the endosymbiont *Rickettsia* on whitefly hosts. (Dr. Martha Hunter's lab, UA, Fall 2015- present)*
- **Dissertation Project: Variation in foraging behavior of the red imported fire ant**
*Studied genetic and environmental influences on intraspecific variation in foraging-related behaviors of the red imported fire ant. Quantified colony and task-level variation in expression of the fire ant foraging gene (*sifor*). (Dr. Micky Eubanks' lab, TAMU, Summer 2009-2015)*
- **Graduate Study Project: Thermal physiology and computer modeling**
Created a biophysical model using Python in order to examine the effect of lizard and habitat coloration on patterns of lizard thermoregulatory activity. (Dr. Michael Sears' lab, SIUC, Fall 2008, incomplete, advisor relocated)
- **Undergraduate Study Project: Species effects on microhabitat preferences**
Planned and conducted field work for study of species differences in microhabitat preferences of snakes in the Lick Creek Park Preserve. (Dr. Lee Fitzgerald's lab, TAMU, Summer 2007-2008)

GRANTS AND FUNDING

- NIH Postdoctoral Excellence in Research and Teaching Fellowship (2015-2018)
- Willie May Harris Fellowship for Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistants (\$12,000 and tuition)(2013)
- J.H. Benedict, Sr. Memorial Graduate Student Scholarship (\$2,500)(2012)
- U.S. Senator Phil Gramm Doctoral Fellowship (\$5,000)(2012)
- Texas Ecolab Research Grant (\$12,824) (2012)
- Texas A&M University Regents' Graduate Fellowship (\$4,500) (2009-2010)
- Texas A&M University Merit Fellowship (tuition and stipend ~\$42,000) (2009-2010)
- Southern Illinois University Master's Fellowship (tuition and stipend ~\$25,000) (2008-2009)
- Texas A&M Merit Plus Scholarship (\$2,000) (2004)
- Texas A&M President's Endowed Scholarship (\$12,000) (2004-2008)
- Texas A&M Director's Excellence Award (\$10,000) (2004-2008)

HONORS AND AWARDS

- North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture Graduate Student Teaching Award of Merit (2014)
- Entomology Graduate Student Organization Travel Grant (\$500)(2014)
- Texas A&M Distinguished Graduate Student Award for Excellence in Teaching (\$500)(2013)
- Student Research Week: 1st Place Plant & Animal Sciences (\$300)(2013)
- Ecological Integration Symposium: 2nd Place Graduate Student Oral Presentations (\$100)(2013)
- Department of Entomology Outstanding Graduate Student Award for Ph.D. (\$250)(2013)
- College of Agriculture Travel Grant (\$500)(2012)
- Office of Graduate Studies Research and Presentation Grant (\$400)(2012)
- Student Enhancement and Endowment Scholarship (\$300)(2012)
- Graduate Student Forum: Outstanding Presentation of Research, 1st Place (\$200) (2011)
- Student Research Week: 1st place in Ecology, Conservation & Environmental Studies (\$200); Session Winner (2011)
- Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Travel Award (\$450)(2011)
- NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program Honorable Mention (2010)
- Graduate Student Council Travel Award (\$500)(2010)
- Graduate Student Forum, Outstanding Presentation of Research, 3rd Place (\$100) (2010)
- NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program Honorable Mention (2009)
- Phi Beta Kappa (2008)
- Student Research Week/Ecological Integration Symposium Dual Competition: 1st place (\$300); Session Winner; and Environmental Health & Safety Recognition Award (2008)
- National Merit Scholar (2004)

PUBLICATIONS

Bockoven, A., Wilder, S., Eubanks, M. (2015). Intraspecific variation among social insect colonies: persistent regional and colony-level differences in fire ant foraging behavior. *PLOS ONE*, 10(7).

PRESENTATIONS

Invited Talks

Bockoven, A., Eubanks, M. The red imported fire ants: Biology, behavior and research. 68th Texas A&M University Urban Pest Management Conference and Workshop. Jan 7-10 2014.

Bockoven, A., Coates, C., Eubanks, M. Expression of the red imported fire ant *foraging* gene and colony-level variation in behavior. Evolution of Insect Pests in a Connected World. 2013 Annual Meeting of the Entomological Society of America. Nov 10-13 2013.

Bockoven, A., Eubanks, M. Colony-level variation in foraging behavior of the red imported fire ant (*Solenopsis invicta*). Texas A&M Department of Entomology Seminar Series. Feb 10 2011.

Oral Presentations

Bockoven, A., Coates, C., Eubanks, M. Gene expression and colony-level variation in fire ant foraging behavior. 2014 Annual Meeting of the Entomological Society of America. Nov 15-19 2013.

Bockoven, A., Coates, C., Eubanks, M. Expression of the red imported fire ant *foraging* gene and colony-level variation in behavior. XVII International Congress of the International Union for the Study of Social Insects. Jul 13-18 2014.

Bockoven, A., Eubanks, M. Cooperation vs. competition: Factors influencing the success of group-founding queens in the red imported fire ant. 2013 Annual Meeting of the Entomological Society of America. Nov 10-13 2013.

Bockoven, A., Eubanks, M. Cooperation and competition during multiple queen founding in the red imported fire ant. Student Research Week, Texas A&M University. March 25-29 2013.

Bockoven, A., Eubanks, M. Cooperation and competition during multiple queen founding in the red imported fire ant. Ecological Integration Symposium, Texas A&M University. March 22-23 2013.

Bockoven, A., Coates, C., Eubanks, M. Intraspecific behavioral variation and the red

- imported fire ant *foraging* gene. 2012 Annual Meeting of the Entomological Society of America. Nov 11-14 2012.
- Bockoven, A.,** Coates, C., Eubanks, M. Intraspecific behavioral variation and the red imported fire ant *foraging* gene. 97th Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting. Aug 5-10 2012.
- Bockoven, A.,** Eubanks, M. Influence of genetic variation on colony-level foraging behavior of the red imported fire ant. 2012 Imported Fire Ant Conference. April 16-19 2012.
- Bockoven, A.,** Coates, C., Eubanks, M. Influence of genetic variation on colony-level foraging behavior of the red imported fire ant (*Solenopsis invicta*). 2011 Annual Meeting of the Entomological Society of America. Nov 13-16 2011.
- Bockoven, A.,** Eubanks, M. Potential causes and consequences of colony-level variation in foraging behavior of the red imported fire ant (*Solenopsis invicta*). Texas A&M University Department of Entomology 14th Annual Graduate Student Forum. Aug 6 2011.
- Bockoven, A.,** Eubanks, M. Potential causes and consequences of colony-level variation in foraging behavior of the red imported fire ant (*Solenopsis invicta*). 96th Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting. Aug 7-12 2011.
- Bockoven, A.,** Coates, C., Eubanks, M. Colony-level variation in foraging behavior of the red imported fire ant (*Solenopsis invicta*). 2010 Annual Meeting of the Entomological Society of America. Dec 12-15 2010.
- Bockoven, A.,** Eubanks, M. Colony-level variation in foraging behavior of the red imported fire ant (*Solenopsis invicta*). Texas A&M University Department of Entomology 13th Annual Graduate Student Forum. Aug 6 2010.

Posters

- Bockoven, A.,** Coates, C., Eubanks, M. Influence of genetic variation on colony-level foraging behavior of the red imported fire ant. Student Research Week, Texas A&M University. March 20-23 2012.
- Bockoven, A.,** Coates, C., Eubanks, M. Influence of genetic variation on colony-level foraging behavior of the red imported fire ant. Genes & Behavior Gordon Research Seminar. March 17-18 2012.
- Bockoven, A.,** Eubanks, M. Colony-level variation in foraging behavior of the red imported fire ant (*Solenopsis invicta*). 2011 Imported Fire Ant Conference. April 4-7 2011.
- Bockoven, A.,** Eubanks, M. Colony-level variation in foraging behavior of the red

imported fire ant (*Solenopsis invicta*). Student Research Week, Texas A&M University. March 21-25 2011.

Bockoven, A., Amarello, M., and Sears, M. Implications of tradeoffs between crypsis and thermoregulation for the evolution of animal coloration. Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology. Jan 3-7 2009.

Coauthored Presentations

McMichael, C., **Bockoven, A.**, Eubanks, M. Nepotism and selective cannibalism in the red imported fire ant. Ecological Integration Symposium, Texas A&M University. March 22-23 2013.

Morris, C., **Bockoven, A.**, Singleton, J., Wade, K., and Warrendorf, D. Microhabitat selection for the snakes of Lick Creek Park. Ecological Integration Student Symposium. March 28-29 2008.

Morris, C., **Bockoven, A.**, Singleton, J., Wade, K., and Warrendorf, D. Microhabitat selection for the snakes of Lick Creek Park. Student Research Week, Texas A&M University. March 24-28 2008.

Wade, K., **Bockoven, A.**, Morris, C., Singleton, J., and Warrendorf, D. Microhabitat selection for the snakes of Lick Creek Park. Student Research Poster Competition of the 2008 Texas A&M AgriLife Conference. January 7-8 2008.

PROFESSIONAL & TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Teaching Assistant, Forensic Science (*FIVS 123, Spring 2015*)
- Teaching Assistant, Disease Ecology (*ENTO 425, Fall 2014*)
- Teaching Assistant, Veterinary Entomology (*ENTO 208, Fall 2014*)
- Teaching Assistant, General Entomology (*ENTO 201, Spring 2011*)
- Teaching Assistant, General Entomology (*ENTO 201, Spring 2010*)
- Student Technician II, Entomology (*Dr. Micky Eubanks' lab, Summer 2009*)
- Student Worker, Genetics (*Dr. Spencer Johnston's lab, Spring 2008*)
- Summer and After-School Teacher, Camelot Learning Center (*Fall and Spring 2004-2007; Summer 2007*)

MENTORING

- Jeremy Hewlett, Texas A&M Undergraduate Independent Study Project (*Summer 2015*)
- Kiara Hays, A&M Consolidated High School, Independent Study Project (*Summer 2013-Fall 2013*)
- David Hyde, Hammond-Oliver High School for Human Science Senior Internship program (*Spring-Summer 2012*)
- Yidong Chen, Texas A&M Undergraduate Independent Study Project (*Spring 2012*)
- Lauren McColley, Texas A&M Undergraduate Independent Study Project (*Fall 2011*)

- Lacey Campbell, Research Experience for Undergraduates (*Summer 2010*)

WORKSHOPS & TRAINING

- Graduate Teaching Academy Workshop Series (*Spring 2014*)
- Ants of the Southwest Course, Southwestern Research Station (*August 2012*)
- Mentoring Undergraduates Workshop for Graduate Students (*May 2010*)

COMMITTEES & LEADERSHIP

- Outreach Committee, Entomology Graduate Student Organization (*Summer 2012-Spring 2013*)
- Social Secretary, Entomology Graduate Student Organization (*Summer 2011-Spring 2012*)
- President, Entomology Graduate Student Organization (*Summer 2010-Spring 2011*)
- Student Enhancement Committee (*Spring 2011*)
- Seminar Committee Chair, Entomology Graduate Student Organization (*Spring 2010*)

SERVICE

Outreach

- Public outreach blog for entomology education, “6legs2many” (*184 articles, ~15,000 monthly page views, Spring 2010-Fall 2014*)
- Presenter, Ants & Entomology, Green Prairie Elementary School (*April 2014*)
- Exhibit Presenter, Entomological Foundation Insect Expo, (*November 2013*)
- Presentation Preparation, Galatas Elementary Spider Day (*October 2013*)
- Volunteer, Honey Processing, A&M Dept. Entomology Apiculture (*September 2013*)
- Exhibit Presenter, “Arthropod Zoo,” Southwood Valley Elementary Science Night (*April 2013*)
- Presenter, Friends of Lick Creek Park Walk and Talk, “Spiders and Bugs” (*October 2012*)
- Presenter, Girl Scout Camp Howdy Entomology Presentation (*June 2012*)
- Presenter, 3rd Grade Entomology Learning Program, College Hills Elementary School (*May 2012*)
- Presenter, Entomology Learning Program, Covenant Presbyterian Day School (*May 2012*)
- Exhibit Presenter, “Insects in Society,” St. Andrew’s Spring Festival (*March 2012*)
- Exhibit Presenter, Dept. of Entomology Outreach, Aggieland Saturday (*February 2012*)
- Workshop Instructor, Expanding Your Horizons (*December 2011*)
- Presenter, Beneficial Insects Lesson, Future Farmers of America (*August 2011*)
- Presenter, Entomology Learning Program, St. Joseph’s Catholic School (*June 2011*)

- Exhibit Presenter, “Arthropod Zoo,” Southwood Valley Elementary Science Night (*April 2011*)
- Exhibit Presenter, Dept. of Entomology Outreach, Aggieland Saturday (*February 2011*)
- Workshop Instructor, Expanding Your Horizons (*December 2010*)
- Volunteer, Interview With an Entomologist (*April 2010*)
- Bilingual Reading Tutor, Help One Student to Succeed program (*Fall 2006*)

Publication Review

- Ecological Entomology (*January 2015*)
- Naturwissenschaften (*June 2014*)
- Journal of Animal Ecology (*May 2011*)

Judging

- Ecological Integration Student Symposium (*March 2014*)
- Foreign Policy Extemp, The Woodlands High School Debate Tournament (*September 2013*)
- Student Research Week (*March 2013*)
- Ecological Integration Student Symposium (*March 2012*)
- Ecological Integration Student Symposium (*March 2011*)
- Illinois Junior Academy of Science Region 8 Science Fair (*March 2009*)

Panels

- Center for Teaching Excellence TA Institute Panel (*August 2014*)
- Graduate Student Panel for Entomology Graduate Orientation (*August 2013*)
- Mentoring Undergraduates Workshop for Graduate Students (*May 2013*)
- Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation Graduate Student Panel (*February 2013*)
- Discussion Leader, Texas A&M New Graduate Student Orientation (*January 2013*)
- Mentoring Undergraduates Workshop for Graduate Students (*May 2012*)
- Graduate Student Panel for Entomology Graduate Orientation (*August 2011*)