Eric R. Scott, PhD

Postdoctoral Associate



Updated 2021-04-22

Education

2014–2020 PhD, Tufts University, Medford, MA.

- Indirect and interactive effects of climate and herbivory on tea metabolites and quality
- PI: Colin Orians

2007–2010 MS, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, IL.

- Interactions between habitat and ungulate herbivory limit the spread of Ipomopsis aggregata (Polemoniaceae).
- PI: Ken Paige

2002–2006 B.A., Whitman College, Walla Walla, WA.

• Behavioral evidence for host-race formation in the gall midge Dasineura folliculi (Felt).

Research Experience

2020- Postdoctoral associate, Bruna Lab, University of Florida.

- Present Manage and integrate long-term datasets on precipitation and plant demography
 - Quantify drought frequency and severity at different scales
 - Use generalized additive models and two-dimensional splines to test for potentially lagged and non-linear effects of drought on vital rates
 - Use simulation models to understand effects of drought and fragmentation on population viability

2019–2020 Graduate Research Assistant, Crone Lab, Tufts University.

• Developed the R package bumbl which provides functions for modeling bumblebee colony growth.

2014–2020 Graduate Researcher, Tufts University, Medford, MA.

- Conducted collaborative, interdisciplinary research on the effects of climate change and insect herbivory on tea metabolites
- Designed and carried out field, greenhouse, and lab experiments at the Tea Research Institute in Hangzhou, China and at Tufts University
- Developed and validated a novel, high-throughput method for sampling plant volatiles in the field
- Mentored undergraduate assistants in computational, lab, and field experiments

2017–2018 **NSF grant coordinator**, Tufts University, Medford, MA.

- Schedule and coordinate conference calls and meetings with collaborators
- Maintain public-facing website for grant
- Communicate research findings to general public via blog posts and social media

- 2010 Research Assistant, Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO.
 - Worked as part of a team to survey remote wetlands throughout Colorado
 - Carried out soil and vegetation sampling protocols and plant identification in the field
- 2007–2010 Graduate Researcher, UIUC, Urbana, IL.
 - Successfully completed research projects investigating the effects of soil nutrients and herbivory on compensatory growth and chemical defenses in a wildflower
 - Mentored undergraduate research assistants
 - 2005 Research Intern, Bucknell University, Lewisburg, PA.
 - Collaborated with post-doctoral researcher to design a pilot study investigating host-race formation in a gall midge
 - Designed and carried out field and lab experiments, analyzed data, and contributed to published manuscripts

Guest Lectures

- May 2020 **Tea chemistry, the environment, and health**, Medicinal Plants, Tufts ExCollege.
- Oct 2019 Paired t-tests, Biostatistics, Tufts University.
- Feb 2019 **Lessons from fieldwork experiences**, Intro to environmental fieldwork, Tufts University.
- Dec 2018 Lessons from fieldwork experiences, Intro to environmental fieldwork, Tufts University.
- Oct 2018 **Tea sustainability in a changing climate**, Sustainability in Action, Tufts University.
- Apr 2018 **Tea chemistry, the environment, and health**, Medicinal Plants, Tufts ExCollege.

Grants

- Mar 2021 NSF REU Supplement (co-authored with E. Bruna).
 - \$7,200
- Nov 2019 R Consortium Infrastructure Steering Committee Grant.
 - \$6,000
- Jan 2016 Tufts Institute for the Environment Fellowship.
 - \$4,975.00
- Mar 2009 Program in Ecology, Evolution, and Conservation Biology Research Grant.
 - \$850.00
- Mar 2009 Francis M. and Harlie M. Clark Research Support Grant.
 - \$2,500.00

- Mar 2008 Francis M. and Harlie M. Clark Research Support Grant.
 - \$2.500.00
- Mar 2008 Program in Ecology, Evolution, and Conservation Biology Research Grant.
 - \$850.00

Awards and Honors

- Nov 2019 First place in section for student talks. Entomological Society of America
- Mar 2019 Finalist for Outstanding Contributions to Undergraduate Education Award. Graduate School of Arts and Sciences
- Mar 2019 First place in Tufts Graduate Research Symposium 15 minute talk category. Graduate School of Arts and Sciences
- Nov 2018 First place in section for student talks. Entomological Society of America
- Feb 2017 First place in Tufts Graduate Research Symposium 5 minute talk category. Graduate School of Arts and Sciences
- Feb 2016 Second place in Tufts Graduate Research Symposium 15 minute talk category. Graduate School of Arts and Sciences
- Mar 2009 Teaching Excellence award. UIUC School of Integrative Biology
- May 2006 Cynthia Lechner Biology Award. Whitman College
- Mar 2006 First place in M.S. graduate student poster competition. Entomological Society of America, Pacific Branch
- Nov 2005 Superior Poster Presenter. Sigma Xi

— Publications

- 2021 Differing non-linear, lagged effects of temperature and precipitation on an insect herbivore and its host plant, ER Scott, JP Wei, X Li, WY Han, CM Orians, Ecological Entomology.
- 2021 Using the right tool for the job: the difference between unsupervised and supervised analyses of multivariate ecological data, ER Scott, EE Crone, Oecologia.
- 2020 Webchem: An R Package to retrieve chemical information from the web, E Szöcs, T Stirling, ER Scott, A Scharmüller, RB Schäfer, J. Stat. Softw.
- 2020 Changes in tea plant secondary metabolite profiles as a function of leafhopper density and damage, ER Scott, X Li, JP Wei, N Kfoury, J Morimoto, MM Guo*, A Agyei*, ..., Frontiers in plant science.

^{*} indicates undergraduate mentee author

- 2019 Interactive effects of drought severity and simulated herbivory on tea (Camellia sinensis) volatile and non-volatile metabolites, ER Scott, X Li, N Kfoury, J Morimoto, WY Han, S Ahmed, SB Cash, ..., Environmental and Experimental Botany.
- 2019 Combined impacts of prolonged drought and warming on plant size and foliar chemistry, CM Orians, R Schweiger, JS Dukes, ER Scott, C Müller, Annals of botany.
- 2019 Plant-Climate Interaction Effects: Changes in the Relative Distribution and Concentration of the Volatile Tea Leaf Metabolome in 2014–2016, N Kfoury, ER Scott, CM Orians, S Ahmed, SB Cash, T Griffin, C Matyas, ..., Frontiers in plant science.
- 2018 Exogenous melatonin alleviates cold stress by promoting antioxidant defense and redox homeostasis in Camellia sinensis L., X Li, JP Wei, ER Scott, JW Liu, S Guo, Y Li, L Zhang, WY Han, Molecules.
- 2018 Striking changes in tea metabolites due to elevational effects, N Kfoury, J Morimoto, A Kern, ER Scott, CM Orians, S Ahmed, T Griffin, ..., Food chemistry.
- 2018 Differential changes in tea quality as influenced by insect herbivory, ER Scott, CM Orians, Stress physiology of tea in the face of climate change.
- 2017 Direct contact sorptive extraction: a robust method for sampling plant volatiles in the field, N Kfoury, E Scott, C Orians, A Robbat Jr, Journal of agricultural and food chemistry.
- 2009 Behavioural, ecological and genetic evidence confirm the occurrence of host-associated differentiation in goldenrod gall-midges, N Dorchin, ER Scott, CE Clarkin, MP Luongo, S Jordan, WG Abrahamson, Journal of Evolutionary Biology.
- 2007 Taxonomy, Life History, and Population Sex Ratios of North American Dasineura (Diptera: Cecidomyiidae) on Goldenrods (Asteraceae), N Dorchin, CE Clarkin, ER Scott, MP Luongo, WG Abrahamson, Annals of the Entomological Society of America.
- 2006 First Record of Macrolabis (Diptera: Cecidomyiidae) in America: A New Inquiline Species from Dasineura folliculi Galls on Goldenrods, N Dorchin, ER Scott, WG Abrahamson, Annals of the Entomological Society of America.

2006 Behavioral Evidence for Host-race Formation in the Gall-midge Dasineura Folliculi (Felt), ER Scott, Whitman College.

Software

- 2021 bumbl: Tools for modeling bumblebee colony growth, ER Scott, E Crone, https://cran.r-project.org/package=bumbl.
 - Author and maintainer
- 2020 webchem: retrieve chemical information from the web, E Szöcs, D Muench, J Ranke, ER Scott, J Stanstrup, R Allaway, Tamas Stirling, https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/webchem/.
 - Contributor and maintainer
- 2018 holodeck: A tidy interface for simulating multivariate data, ER Scott, https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/holodeck/.
 - Author and maintainer

Presentations

Research Talks

- Mar 2021 Impacts of insect herbivory on tea quality: strategies for a changing climate, University of Florida Entomology and Nematology Department Seminar, University of Florida.
- Aug 2020 Introduction to webchem, European Chemicals Agency.
- Aug 2020 Using the right tool for the job: Understanding the difference between unsupervised and supervised analyses of multivariate ecological data, *Ecological Society of America*.
- Nov 2019 Non-linear effects of tea green leafhopper (*Empoasca onukii*) density on tea (*Camellia sinensis*) secondary metabolites and implications for tea quality., Entomological Society of America Joint Meeting, Saint Louis, MO.
 - First place in section (P-IE Chemical Ecology)
- Nov 2019 Effects of Climate Change on Tea Quality, Biology Seminar, University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth.
- May 2019 Can a leafhopper rescue tea from climate change?, The Cambridge Entomological Club, Cambridge.
- Mar 2019 Can pests rescue tea quality from climate change?, Gervay-Hague Lab Group Meeting, UC Davis.

- Mar 2019 Multivariate Statistics for Ecology and Baked Goods, Tufts Graduate Student Symposium, Tufts University.
 - First place in 15 min talk category
- Nov 2018 The importance of insect herbivore density to induced metabolite blends in tea plants (*Camellia sinensis*) and implications for tea quality, *Entomological Society of America Joint Meeting*, Vancouver, BC.
 - First place in section (P-IE turf and horticulture)
- Jul 2018 Can pests rescue tea quality from climate change?, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Science Tea Research Institute (TRI CAAS) Seminar Series, Hangzhou, China.
- Mar 2018 Combined effects of drought and herbivory on tea metabolites, *Biology Department Seminar*, Tufts University.
- Mar 2017 A novel, high-throughput method for sampling volatiles in the field., Entomological Society of America Eastern Branch Meeting, Newport, RI.
- Feb 2017 Can insect damage improve tea quality in a changing climate?, Tufts Graduate Student Symposium, Tufts University.
 - First place in 5 minute talk category
- Feb 2016 A New Method For Sampling Plant Volatiles in the Field, Tufts Graduate Student Symposium, Tufts University.
 - Second place in 15 min category
- Jan 2016 Sampling Plant Volatiles in the Field: An Alternative to Dynamic Headspace Sampling, Gordon Research Seminar: Plant Volatiles, Ventura, CA.
- Nov 2015 An Alternative Method for Sampling Plant Volatiles., Biology Department Seminar, Tufts University.
- Apr 2006 How gall makers enslave plants to build homes., Whitman College Undergraduate Conference, Walla Walla, WA.

Posters

- Nov 2018 Interactive effects of drought and herbivory on tea (*Camellia sinensis*) volatile and non-volatile metabolites, *Entomological Society of America Joint Meeting*, Vancouver, BC.
- Aug 2017 Generating and analyzing metabolomic data from tea plant volatiles.,

 Data Intensive Studies Center (DISC) Symposium, Tufts University.

- Feb 2016 Sampling Plant Volatiles in the Field: An Alternative to Dynamic Headspace Sampling, Gordon Research Conference: Plant Volatiles, Ventura, CA.
- Mar 2006 Behavioral evidence for host race formation in a gall midge, Entomological Society of America Pacific Branch Annual Meeting, Kehei, HI.
 - First place in M.S. graduate student poster competition
- Nov 2005 **Behavioral evidence for host race formation in a gall midge**, Sigma Xi Annual Meeting and Student Research Conference, Seattle, WA.
 - Superior Poster Presenter award

Outreach

- 2015–2016, Scientist Pen-Pal, Letters to a Prescientist.
- 2018–2021 Scientist pen-pal paired with a middle-school pre-scientist
 - Fall 2019 #TeaScienceTuesday, Instagram.
 - A social media campaign where I live-streamed a short discussion about an aspect of tea science
 - 11/20/19 The Chemistry of Tea, The London Tea Room, Saint Louis, MO.
 - Class for general public on tea science
 - 9/27/19 The Chemistry of Tea, Mem Tea, Somerville, MA.
 - Class for general public on tea science
 - 4/26/17 Bug-Bitten Tea, Pint of Science, Cambridge, MA.
 - An informal talk to the public about my research at a local pub

Service

- Review Editor for Plant Metabolism and Chemodiversity section of Frontiers in Plant Science Manuscript Reviews
- Agronomy (1)
- Journal of Chemical Ecology (1)
- Ecological Entomology (3)
- International Journal of Climatology (2)
- Oecologia (1)
- Frontiers in Cellular and Infection Microbiology (1)
 - 2020 Secretary and co-founder. UFPDA (UF Postdoc Association)

Present

- 2015–2016 President. Tufts BUGS (Biology Union of Graduate Students)
- 2009–2010 Outreach and policy committee. UIUC Graduate Students in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology (GEEB)
- 2008–2009 Graduate student symposium food committee chair. UIUC Graduate Students in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology (GEEB)

Presented Workshops

Jan 2018 R Notebooks: Richly annotate your statistical analyses and produce dynamic reports. Workshop

Jan 2009 Using RSS feeds to stay up-to-date in ecology/Using Papers to organize your literature.. GEEB Workshop

Professional Development

Nov 2020 Brain, Bias, Being Anti-Racism Workshop. Tufts University
Oct 2020 Effective Mentoring of Graduate Students. University of Florida
Oct 2020 Tips for Mentoring Online Right Now!. University of Florida
Oct 2020 Setting Student Expectations Through an Effective Course Syllabus. University of Florida
Aug 2020 Anti-Racist Theory & Teaching Practice. University of Florida
Mar 2019 Optimizing Your Mentoring Relationship. Tufts University
Jan 2018 Best practices for productive writing. Tufts University
Sep 2015 Grant Writing: Finding Funding. Tufts University
Sep 2013 Working with Student-Veterans: Strategies and Guidance for Creating Veteran-Supportive Classrooms. Front Range Community College
Sep 2012 How to get students to "eat the textbook". Front Range Community College
Oct 2008 Taking Charge: Strategies for Success in Graduate School. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign