

Randy Klabacka

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Education

PhD Candidate in Biological Sciences

Auburn University– Auburn, AL

Advisors: Dr. Jamie Oaks and Dr. Tonia Schwartz

Anticipated graduation: Fall 2021

2016 – 2021

(anticipated)

Bachelor of Science in Biological Science

Brigham Young University– Provo, UT

Advisors: Dr. Jack W. Sites Jr. (Biology) and Dr. Chad Hancock (NDFS)

2016

Grants and Awards

- **2019** COSAM Travel Award– to attend 9th World Congress of Herpetology in New Zealand (\$300)
- **2019** SSAR Henri Seibert Competition– best student paper talk in Systematics and Evolution Category at JMIH 2019 (\$200)
- **2019** Trees in the Desert NSF-funded workshop (travel, housing & food, workshop)
- **2017** Cellular and Molecular Biology (CMB) Peaks of Excellence Research Fellowship: Mitonuclear distancing: The baggage of an asexual reproductive strategy (*Aspidoscelis*) (Summer Stipend)
- **2017** Meredith Ann Birchfield Endowed Fund for Excellence: Filling genetic sampling gap for species delimitation/biogeography of *Draco maculatus* species complex (Thailand) (\$1,500)
- **2017** NSF Travel Grant: Society of Systematic Biologists meeting. (\$500)
- **2016** Office of Research & Creative Activities (ORCA) Grant: Phylogeny and species boundaries in the “flying dragons” of the *Draco maculatus* species complex (family Agamidae) (\$1,500)
- **2015** 3rd Place HBL College of Life Sciences Poster Competition: (\$100)
- **2015** BYU College of Life Sciences Dean’s List
- **2014** NSF Research Opportunity for Undergraduate Students (REU) supplemental award recipient: Phylogeny and biogeography of New World leaf-toed geckos, *Phyllodactylus* (Co-author; \$3,000)
- **2013** Full-tuition Academic Scholarship: Brigham Young University

Publications

Klabacka, R.L., Perry, P.L. Jr., Oaks, J.R., McGuire, J.A., Grismer, L. L., Sites, J.W. Jr. (2019). Phylogenetic composition of the *Draco maculatus* species complex: Novel species hypotheses for four flying lizards within Indochina. In preparation for *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution* (accepted with minor revisions).

Davis, Hayden R., Grismer, L. Lee, Klabacka, Randy L., Muin, Mohd A., Quah, Evan S., Anuar, Shahrul, Wood, Perry L. J.R., and Sites, Jack W. J.R. (2016). The phylogenetic relationships of a new Stream Toad of the genus *Ansonia* Stoliczka, 1870 (Anura: Bufonidae) from a montane region in Peninsular Malaysia." *Zootaxa* 4103(2): 137-153. DOI: 10.11646/zootaxa.4103.2.4.

Grismer, L. Lee, Wood, Perry L. J.R., Anuar, Shahrul, Grismer, Marta S., Quah, Evan S., Murdoch, Matthew L., Muin, Mohd A., Davis, Hayden R., Klabacka, Randy L., Aguilar, César, Cobos, Anthony J., Aowphol,

Anchalee, Sites, Jack W. J.R. (2016). Two new Bent-toed Geckos of the *Cyrtodactylus pulchellus* complex from Peninsular Malaysia and multiple instances of convergent adaptation to limestone forest ecosystems. *Zootaxa* 4105(5): 401-429. DOI: 10.11646/zootaxa.4105.5.1.

Publications *in prep*

- Klabacka, R., Parry, H., Yap, J., Cook, R., Herron, T., Horne, L., Álvarez, G., Kavazis, A., Oaks, J., Fujita, M., Johnson, J., Schwartz, T. Mitochondrial function in asexual whiptail lizards (genus *Aspidoscelis*). In preparation for *Biology Letters*. Anticipated submission: April 2020.
- Klabacka, R., Schwartz, T.S., Reding, D., Saphick, S., Stevison, L., Bronikowski, A.M. Population genetics of the electron transport chain in snake populations exhibiting divergent resting metabolic rates. Currently finishing data analysis- in preparation for *Molecular Ecology*. Anticipated submission: April 2019.
- Westfall, A., Telemeco, R., Waits, D., Klabacka, R., ... Schwartz, T. et al. A high quality genome assembly for the reptile physiology model, *Sceloporus undulatus*. In preparation for *Genome Biology*.
- Gamble, T., Klabacka, R., Aguilar, C., Bauer, A., Catenazzi, A., Greenbaum, E., Sites, J.W. Jr., Valdez, F. Phylogeny and biogeography of New World leaf-toed geckos, *Phyllodactylus* (Phyllodactylidae: Gekkota). In preparation.

Research Presentations

- Klabacka, R.K., Parry, H., Yap, J., Cook, R., Herron, T., Horne, L.M., Maldonado, J., Álvarez, G., Kavazis, A., Oaks, J.R., Fujita, M., Johnson, J., Schwartz, T.S. The powerhouse of asexual cost? Endurance and mitochondrial efficiency in parthenogenetic whiptail lizards (genus *Aspidoscelis*). 9th World Congress of Herpetology. 7 January 2020. University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand.
- Klabacka, R., Perry, P.L. Jr., McGuire, J.A., Oaks, Grismer, L.L., Grismer, J.L., J.R., Sites, J.W. Jr. Riverine barriers as potential drivers of biodiversification in the *Draco maculatus* species complex of Indochina. Joint Meeting of Herpetologists and Ichthyologists (JMIH; 15 min oral presentation). 27 July 2019. Snowbird, UT. *1st place in Henri Seibert Competition (Systematics and Evolution category)
- Klabacka, R., Maldonado, J., Kavazis, A.N., Parry, H., Oaks, J.R., Fujita, M.K., Schwartz, T.S. Comparative examination of mitochondrial function in parthenogenetic whiptail lizards (genus: *Aspidoscelis*). American Genetics Association Presidential Symposium. 3 June 2020. Portland, OR.
- Schwartz, T.S., Reding, D., Klabacka, R., Saphick, S., Stevison, L., Bronikowski, A.M. Population genetics of the electron transport chain in snake populations exhibiting divergent resting metabolic rates. Society of Integrative and Comparative Biology (SICB; poster presentation). 5 January 2019. Tampa, FL.
- Klabacka, R., Perry, P.L. Jr., McGuire, J.A., Oaks, Grismer, L.L., Grismer, J.L., J.R., Sites, J.W. Jr. Bayes factor delimitation supports population structure in Southeast Asian species complex of Agamid lizard. Society of Systematic Biologists (SSB) meeting (5 min oral presentation). 3 June 2018. The Ohio State University, OH.
- Schwartz, T.S., Reding, D., Klabacka, R., Saphick, S., Stevison, L., Bronikowski, A.M. Targeted sequence capture for functional population genomics of genetic networks: Mapping approaches for non-model organisms. Joint Meeting of Herpetologists and Ichthyologists (JMIH; poster presentation). 14 July 2017. Austin, TX.
- Klabacka, R., Perry, P.L. Jr., Grismer, L.L., McGuire, J.A., Oaks, J.R., Sites, J.W. Jr. Speciation or isolated diversification: The hidden variation of *Draco maculatus*. Society of Systematic Biologists (SSB) meeting (5 min oral presentation). 10 January 2017. Baton Rouge, LA.
- Klabacka, R., Perry, P.L. Jr., Grismer, L.L., McGuire, J.A., Oaks, J.R., Aowphol, A., Sites, J.W. Jr. Hidden Dragons: The molecular composition of the *Draco maculatus* species complex. Southeastern Population Ecology and Evolutionary Genetics (SEPEEG) meeting (15 min oral presentation). 22 October 2016. Madison, FL.

- Klabacka, R., Perry, P.L. Jr., Sites, J.W. Jr. Phylogeny and species boundaries in the “flying dragons” of the *Draco maculatus* species complex (family Agamidae). Utah Conference on Undergraduate Research (UCUR; poster presentation). 19 February 2016. University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT.
- Klabacka, R., Perry, P.L. Jr., Sites, J.W. Jr. Phylogeny and species boundaries in the “flying dragons” of the *Draco maculatus* species complex (family Agamidae). HBLL 2015 College of Life Sciences Undergraduate Poster Competition. 9 November 2015. Brigham Young University, Provo, UT.
- Klabacka, R., Aguilar C., A.M. Bauer, A. Catenazzi, E. Greenbaum, J.W. Sites, Jr., F. Valdez, Wood, P.L. Jr., Wilkes, R., and T. Gamble. Phylogeny and biogeography of New World leaf-toed geckos, *Phyllodactylus* (Phyllodactylidae: Gekkota). Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles, 58th Annual Meeting. 1 August 2015. University of Kansas, Lawrence, KA.

Invited Talks

LSU Museum of Natural Science Seminar Series	
- Riverine barriers as drivers of biodiversification in terrestrial fauna of Southeast Asia	2019
Vertebrate Biodiversity (undergraduate course; upcoming October 2019)	
- Amphibian Life Histories	2019
Functional Genomics (graduate course)	
- Using high-throughput sequencing to examine variation at targeted genomic regions	2018
Evolution and Systematics (undergraduate course)	
- Early evolutionary ideas- tree thinking	2018
Introductory Biology (undergraduate course)	
- Domains of life	2016
- The central dogma of biology	2016

Field Experience

• Led team of 5 to NM and TX and collected 50 live <i>Aspidozelis</i> of 5 species (1 month)	2019
• Led team of 4 to NM and TX and collected 210 <i>Aspidozelis</i> of 12 species (2 months)	2018
• Led expedition to observe diurnal herpetofauna of NM during month-long field trip	2017
• Collected herpetofaunal specimens in three-week field trip to Thailand and Malaysia	2016
• Collected morphological data from live <i>Crotalus oreganus lutosus</i>	2015
• Participated in a two-week neotropical biology field course in Costa Rica	2014
• Collected geographical data for <i>Rana luteiventris</i> habitat restoration	2013

Mentorship

I have mentored five undergraduate students in field biology, physiology, and molecular lab work. Current positions of these students include veterinary student, lab/field tech, pursuing MS, and undergraduate research assistant, and working on manuscripts for peer-reviewed publications.

Professional Training

• Creating an Active Learning Classroom- day workshop (Biggio Center)	2018
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Assistantships

Auburn University:

Graduate Teaching Assistantship (GTA)– Vertebrate Biodiversity (Lab)	2019
Graduate Research Assistantship (GRA)– Dr. Jamie Oaks	2019
GTA– Animal Physiology (Lab)	2018
GTA– Biomedical Physiology (Lab)	2018 – 2019
GRA– Functional Genomics (Dr. Tonia Schwartz)	2018

GTA– Anatomy and Physiology (Lab)	2016
Brigham Young University:	
Undergraduate RA (URA)– Phylogenetic Systematics (Dr. Jack Sites Jr.)	2013 – 2016
URA– Metabolic Physiology (Dr. Chad Hancock)	2013 – 2016
Undergraduate TA– Introductory Biology Lab (Dr. John “Keoni” Kauwe)	2013 – 2016

Relevant Research Skills

Computational

- Proficiently code in Python, C++, Bash, R
- Develop genomic pipelines for read cleaning, assembly, mapping, SNP calling, etc.
- Execute computational tools for functional genomics (e.g., gene expression), population genetics, and phylogenetics with genomic datasets
- 14 credit hours of Computer Science and Bioinformatics (during BYU undergraduate coursework)

Molecular

- Perform DNA sequencing techniques (extraction, optimizing quality/quantity for genomic sequencing, PCR, cleanup, big-dye sequencing, will be performing library prep for RAD-seq and RNA-seq in 2019)
- Perform mitochondrial isolation, tissue homogenization (for physiology), mitochondrial respirometry, enzyme activity assays, protein assays, reactive oxygen species assays

Organismal and Museum Collection

- Capture and formalin fix herpetofauna and maintain ethanol-preserved collection (I maintain the vertebrate biology teaching collection, which includes over 1000 ethanol-preserved fish, amphibians, and reptiles)
- Isolate blood from lizards (using post-orbital cavity) and perform general animal necropsy and dissection-flash-preserving tissue samples in liquid nitrogen

Field and Additional

- Fluently speak Spanish
- Established inter-institutional field research in TX and NM
- Lead multiple collection- and research-based field trips in TX, NM, and AZ

Outreach, Community Service, and Relevant Positions

Graduate chair of the Auburn University Dept. of Biol. Sciences Seminar Series	2018 –
University of Texas- El Paso Volunteer TA- Field Biology course (ornithology)	2019
Auburn University STEM Discovery Day instructor	2019
University of Texas- El Paso Volunteer TA- Field Biology course (herpetology)	2018
Reptiles and Amphibians Scout Merit Badge Instructor	2016
Auburn Natural History Museum Open House Herpetological Representative	2016 – 2018
Co-president and Co-founder of the Life Sciences Pre-Graduate Student Club	2015 – 2016
Host for the BYU Dept. of Biol. “Night at the Museum” (with Dr. Seth Bybee)	2015
Elected tour Guide for the newly dedicated LSB– President’s Leadership Council dinner	2014

Professional Memberships

Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles (SSAR)
Society of Systematic Biologists (SSB)
Society for the Study of Evolution (SSE)

Publicity

COSAM News: Auburn Student Honored with Research Award on Reptile Study	2019
Randy Klabacka– Herpetologist (brief Reptile and Amphibian Documentary)	2019