

# KEVIN ANDREW BIRD

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## RESEARCH INTERESTS

Dissecting complex evolutionary phenomena like phenotypic plasticity, convergent evolution, secondary metabolites, and polyploidy using the strategies and methodology of systems biology, such as large-scale, multi-omic datasets and computational modeling.

## EDUCATION

- 2017-Present    **Ph.D**    Horticulture and Ecology, Evolutionary Biology and Behavior,  
Michigan State University advisors: Patrick Edger and Robert VanBuren
- 2012-2016      **B.S.**      Biological Sciences (*Cum laude* with University Honors) University of Missouri  
                  **B.A.**      Philosophy (*Cum laude* with University Honors) University of Missouri

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2017-Present    **Graduate Research Assistant:** Michigan State University, Department of Horticulture and Ecology, Evolutionary Biology, and Behavior Program. Advisors: Patrick Edger and Robert VanBuren
- 2016-2017      **Fulbright fellow/visiting researcher:** VIB/Ghent University, Department of Plant Systems Biology. Advisor: Steven Maere  
                  - Utilized novel techniques in computational systems biology to model evolution of gene regulatory network in the presence and absence of gen(om)e duplications
- 2015 (summer) **Research Assistant:** Cornell University, Plant Breeding and Genetics Section. Advisor: Michael Allen Gore  
                  - *Brassica rapa* field trial and training in quantitative genetic techniques to perform Genome-Wide Association for glucosinolate and mineral nutrient traits
- 2013-2016      **Undergraduate Research Assistant:** University of Missouri Division of Biological Sciences. Advisor: J Chris Pires  
                  - Led collaboration with Cornell University and USDA to investigate population structure and genetic diversity of a global diversity panel of *Brassica rapa*  
                  - Performed bioinformatic analysis to probe utility of ITS genes for phylogenetic inference
- 2012-2013      **Lab Technician:** University of Missouri, Turf Grass Pathology Lab. Supervisor: Lee Miller  
                  - Responsible for fungal tissue culture, DNA isolation, gel electrophoresis

## PUBLICATIONS

**Bird KA**, VanBuren R, Puzey JR, Edger PE. (2018) The causes and consequences of subgenome dominance in hybrids and recent polyploids. *New Phytologist* (**In Review**)

Edger PE, McKain M, **Bird KA**, VanBuren R. (2018) Investigating the evolutionary dynamics of subgenomes in ancient polyploids: challenges and future directions. *Current Opinion in Plant Biology* (**In Review**)

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**Bird KA**, Beissinger T, and Angelovivici R. (2018) Subset-based genomic prediction provides insights into the genetic architecture of free amino acid levels in dry *Arabidopsis thaliana* seeds. *Genes | Genomes | Genetics* (**In Review**)

**Bird KA**, An H, Gazave E, Gore MA, Pires JC, Robertson LD and Labate JA (2017). Population structure and phylogenetic relationships in a diverse panel of *Brassica rapa* L. *Frontiers in Plant Science*. 8:321. doi: 10.3389/fpls.2017.00321

Washburn JD, **Bird KA**, Conant G, Pires JC. 2016 Convergent Evolution and the Origin of Complex Phenotypes in the age of Systems Biology. *International Journal of Plant Sciences* 177 (4), 000-000

Edger PP\*, Tang M\*, **Bird KA**, Mayfield DR, Conant G, Mummenhoff K, Koch M, Pires JC. 2014 Secondary Structure Analyses of the Nuclear rRNA Internal Transcribed Spacers and Assessment of Its Phylogenetic Utility across the Brassicaceae (Mustards). *PLoS ONE* 9(7): e101341

\*These authors contributed equally to this work

## SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

|           |                                                                                                                                                  |
|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2017-2022 | <b>University Distinguished Fellowship</b> , Michigan State University, \$80,000                                                                 |
| 2016-2021 | <b>National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship</b> National Science Foundation, \$138,000                                           |
| 2016-2017 | <b>Fulbright US Student Award</b> , Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, \$14,389                                     |
| 2016      | <b>Young Botanist of the Year Award</b> , Botanical Society of America                                                                           |
| 2016      | <b>Professor Stanley Zimmering Prize for Outstanding Senior in Biological Sciences</b> , University of Missouri, \$500                           |
| 2016      | <b>Award for Academic Distinction</b> , University of Missouri                                                                                   |
| 2015      | <b>Barry Goldwater Excellence in Education Scholarship</b> Honorable Mention, Barry Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation |
| 2015      | <b>American Society of Plant Biologists Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship</b> , American Society of Plant Biologists, \$4,000             |
| 2014-2015 | <b>HHMI C3 Hughes Research Fellowship</b> , University of Missouri, \$8,000                                                                      |
| 2013-2014 | <b>Monsanto Undergraduate Research Fellowship</b> , University of Missouri, \$2,800                                                              |

## GRANTS

|      |                                                                                     |
|------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2018 | Graduate Officer Fellowship, Michigan State University, \$2,000                     |
| 2015 | Honors College Student Experiential Learning Award, University of Missouri, \$500   |
| 2015 | Douglas D. Randall Young Scientist Development Grant, University of Missouri, \$500 |
| 2014 | Mizzou Advantage Undergraduate Travel Grant, University of Missouri, \$360          |
| 2014 | Office of Undergraduate Research Travel Grant, University of Missouri, \$250        |

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

|               |                                                                                      |
|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2016 (fall)   | Teaching Assistant, Phil 4400: Philosophy of Science. University of Missouri         |
| 2015 (spring) | Teaching Assistant, GnHnrs2850: Finding the Story in Science. University of Missouri |
| 2014-2015     | Supplemental Instructor, BioSci 2200: General Genetics. University of Missouri       |
| 2014-2016     | Tutor, BioSci 2200: General Genetics. University of Missouri                         |

## ORAL PRESENTATION

# KEVIN ANDREW BIRD

- 2016 Botany 2016, Botanical Society of America, Savannah, GA  
**Title:** Association Mapping and Population Genetics of the Vegetable Crop *Brassica rapa*.
- 2014 Saturday Morning Science, University of Missouri, Columbia MO  
**Title:** Decoding Science: Talking Outside the Box.

## POSTERS

- 2016 Plant Biology 2016, American Society of Plant Biologists, Austin TX  
**Title:** Population Genetics and Association Mapping of Nutritional Traits in the Vegetable Crop *Brassica rapa*.
- 2015 Life Sciences Week, University of Missouri, Columbia MO  
**Title:** Building the Foundation for Biofortification of *Brassica rapa*.
- 2015 University of Missouri Undergraduate Research and Creative Achievements Forum, Columbia, MO  
**Title:** Laws? Where We're Going We don't Need Laws: How Biology Explains. 2015
- 2015 Undergraduate Research Day at the Capitol, Jefferson City, MO  
**Title:** Finding the Best Genes for Estimating Evolutionary Relationships of Cruciferous Vegetables
- 2014 Botany 2014, Boise, ID  
**Title:** Assessing the Phylogenetic Utility of the ITS Regions
- 2014 Evolution 2014, Raleigh, NC  
**Title:** Assessing the Phylogenetic Utility of the ITS Regions

## RELATED EXPERIENCE

- 2016 1/4-1/8 Tucson Plant Breeding Institute, University of Arizona
- 2014 5/19-5/30 HHMI Summer Biomedical Informatics Institute, University of Missouri

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- 2018-present Chief Information Officer, Graduate Employees Union, Michigan State University
- 2017 NSF Graduate Research Fellowship reviewer, Michigan State University
- 2017-present Professional Development Co-Chair, Horticulture Organization of Graduate Students, Michigan State University
- 2014-2016 Undergraduate Research Ambassador, University of Missouri

## MEMBERSHIPS

American Society of Plant Biologists  
Botanical Society of America  
Society of Systematic Biologists