

KEVIN ANDREW BIRD

1066 Bogue Street.
East Lansing, MI 48823

573-480-4695
Kevinbird93@gmail.com

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

Edger PP, Poorten TJ, VanBuren R, Hardigan MA, Colle M, McKain MR, Smith RD, Teresi SJ, Nelson ADL, Wai CM, Alger EI, **Bird KA**, Yocca AE, Pumplun N, Ou S, Ben-Zvi G, Brodt A, Baruch K, Swale T, Shiue L, Acharya CB, Cole GS, Mower JP, Childs KL, Jiang N, Lyons E, Freeling M, Puzey JR & Knapp SJ. (2019) Origin and evolution of the octoploid strawberry genome *Nature Genetics* volume 51, 541–547

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Colle M, Leisner CP, Wai CM, Ou S, **Bird KA**, Wang J, Wisecaver JH, Yocca AE, Alger EI, Tang H, Xiong Z, Callow P, Ben-Zvi G, Brodt A, Baruch K, Swale T, Shiue L, Song G, Childs KL, Schillmiller A, Vorsa N, Buell CR, VanBuren R, Jiang N, Edger PP. (2019) Haplotype-phased genome and evolution of phytonutrient pathways of tetraploid blueberry, *GigaScience*, , giz012, <https://doi.org/10.1093/gigascience/giz012>

Bird KA, VanBuren R, Puzey JR, Edger PP. (2018) The causes and consequences of subgenome dominance in hybrids and recent polyploids. *New Phytologist* doi:10.1111/nph.15256

Edger PP, 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* 42. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pbi.2018.03.006>.

Bird KA, Turner SD, Beissinger T, and Angelovivic R. (2018) Subset-based genomic prediction provides insights into the genetic architecture of free amino acid levels in dry *Arabidopsis thaliana* seeds. *Biorxiv* [doi:10.1101/272047](https://doi.org/10.1101/272047)

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

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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

2018 Botany 2018, Botanical Society of America, Rochester, MN
Title: The causes and consequences of subgenome dominance in hybrids and recent polyploids

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

2018 Plant Biology 2018, American Society of Plant Biologists, Montreal, Quebec
Title: Subset-based genomic prediction provides insights into the genetic architecture of free amino acid levels in dry *Arabidopsis thaliana* seeds

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

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RELATED EXPERIENCE

2018 12/17-12/2 Genome Assembly Workshop, University of California Davis

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

2017-2018 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