

Robert Masaki Hechler | robert.hechler@mail.utoronto.ca**Education**

2022-	Ph.D. Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of Toronto. Advisor: Dr. Martin Krkosek
2019-22	M.Sc. Biology, McGill University. Advisor: Dr. Melania Cristescu
2015-19	B.Sc. Biology, University of British Columbia

Publications

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8. Hug et al. (**Hechler** & 172 others). In revisions, *Nature Microbiology*. [link to *bioRxiv* preprint]
 7. **Hechler**. 2025. Accepted, *Nature Reviews Biodiversity*.
 6. Semeniuk et al. (**Hechler** & 13 others). 2024. *CJFAS*. [link to article]
 5. **Hechler** and Cristescu. 2024. *Molecular Ecology Resources*. [link to perspective]
 4. **Hechler**, Yates, Chain and Cristescu. 2023. *Molecular Ecology*. [link to article]
 3. **Hechler** and Krkosek. 2023. *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment*. [link to natural history note]
 2. Kagzi, **Hechler**, Fussmann, and Cristescu. 2022. *Molecular Ecology Resources*. [link to article]
 1. **Hechler**. 2021. *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment*. [link to natural history note]

Selected scholarships

2023-26	NSERC Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship	\$150,000
2023-26	NSERC Canada Graduate Scholarship-Doctoral (declined for Vanier)	\$105,000
2023-24	Connaught PhDs for Public Impact Fellowship	\$12,500
2022-26	FRQNT Quebec Doctoral Research Scholarship (declined for PhD at UofT)	\$84,000
2022-23	Ontario Graduate Scholarship (\$15K) & U of T Fellowships (\$25K)	\$40,000

Selected awards

2025	Frontiers Planet Prize nomination	McGill University
2024	Harry Smith Prize (best paper by an ECR)	<i>Molecular Ecology</i>
2023	Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award	University of Toronto EEB
2022	Equity Initiative of the Year	McGill Science Undergraduate Society
2022	Best Presentation Award	Canadian Society for Ecology and Evolution

Selected presentations * Invited † Presentation award

2023		Society of Canadian Aquatic Sciences, Montreal, Canada
2022	*	Tribal Leaders and Environmental Conference, Bar Harbor, USA
2022	* †	ESA-CSEE joint meeting, Montreal, Canada (invited to present in Organized Oral Session)

Selected community involvement

2024-	Member	Junior Editorial Board, <i>Molecular Ecology</i>
2022	Creator	U of T EEB Undergrad Summer Research Award (\$8K award evaluated on skills gained through lived experiences and research motivation, not GPA)
2022-23	Chair	EDI Committee, U of T EEB
2022-	Grad student rep	JEDI Committee, Society of Canadian Aquatic Sciences
2021	Co-organizer	Quebec Centre for Biodiversity Science Conference