

Thomas Harrop

twharrop@gmail.com · tomharrop.io

I am a post-doctoral researcher with a background in bioinformatics, genetics and molecular biology and interests in data science and research relating to agriculture. I mainly work with R, Python and shell scripts. I have experience in molecular, plant, animal and medical laboratories and installing, maintaining and using computers running Unix, Linux and macOS.

Personal information

Nationalities Australian and British

Research My research interests include plant and insect research related to agronomy, tools and techniques in bioinformatics and evolutionary and comparative biology.

Technical My main tools are R, Python and bash. I also use Markdown, TeX, html and css.

I use git and GitHub for version control and strive to follow the principles of reproducible research when coding.

I have experience with workload managers for high-performance computing (HPC) including SGE and LSF and maintain an installation of SLURM on my own workstation.

I have built and used workstations and servers that run macOS, Ubuntu and FreeBSD, and run jobs in HPC environments running Debian and CentOS.

I have skills in molecular biology techniques including quantitative real-time PCR, cloning, nucleic acid extraction and cDNA library preparation, as well as classical genetic approaches with live organisms, such as transformation, crosses, microdissection and bioassays.

Languages English (native), German (TELC Level B2) and French (TELC Level B1)

About me Outside work I enjoy building and riding bicycles, social football and basketball, cooking, programming and technology.

Education

- 2006–2012** **Doctor of Philosophy**, Department of Genetics, the University of Melbourne, Parkville, Australia.
Thesis: *The functions of cytochrome P450s in Drosophila.*
During my Ph.D. I used classical genetics and modern molecular biology, including transgenic manipulation of gene expression and comparative studies of gene function, to investigate the functions of cytochrome P450 genes in the *Drosophila* genus.
- 2002–2005** **Bachelor of Science with Honours (first class)**, the University of Melbourne, Parkville, Australia.
- Awards** **2006–2009**, Australian Postgraduate Award

Experience

Research positions

- 2016–Present** **Post-doctoral researcher**, Laboratory for Evolution and Development, Biochemistry Department, University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand.
In my current position, I work on a bioprotection project investigating the resistance of Argentine stem weevil to its biological control agent.
- 2014–2016** **Post-doctoral researcher**, UMR DIADE, Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD), Montpellier, France.
I used machine learning, data mining, statistical analyses and other bioinformatic techniques to study the development of inflorescence architecture in rice, which affects crop yield. We used laser microdissection and RNA sequencing to characterise molecular events that occur in the developing inflorescence, and applied these results to study the effects of selection on gene expression during the parallel domestications of African and Asian rice.
- 2013–2014** **Post-doctoral researcher**, Department of Plant Breeding and Genetics, Max Planck Institute for Plant Breeding Research, Cologne, Germany.
At the Max Planck Institute I worked on a bioinformatic and molecular biology project to compare the transcriptional

response of different land plants to UV-B exposure, which acts as an environmental signal.

Professional positions

- 2004–2007** **Medical scientist**, Network Pathology, the Austin Hospital, Heidelberg, Australia.
- 2001–2004** **Laboratory assistant**, Network Pathology, the Austin Hospital, Heidelberg, Australia.

Teaching

- 2007–2011** **3rd Year Genetics**, Department of Genetics, The University of Melbourne, Parkville, Australia.
- 2006–2009** **High School Biology**, Department of Genetics, The University of Melbourne, Parkville, Australia.
- 2006–2008** **High School Biology**, Gene Technology Access Centre, The University High School, Parkville, Australia.
- 2005–2008** **1st Year Genetics**, The University of Melbourne, Parkville, Australia.

Students co-supervised

- Swarit Jaisal** **Master of Science**, Life Science Informatics, Universität Bonn, Germany.
- Axel Verdier** **Master of Science**, Sciences et Technologies de l'Information et de la Communication pour la Santé, Université de Montpellier, France.

Publications

Peer-reviewed journals

- Ta, K. N., Adam. H., Staedler, Y.M., Schönenberger, J., **Harrop. T.W.R.**, Tregear, J., Do, N.V., Gantet, P., Ghesquière, A., and Jouannic, S. (2017). Differences in meristem size and expression of branching genes are associated with variation in panicle phenotype in wild and domesticated African rice. *EvoDevo* 8: 2. [doi:10.1186/s13227-017-0065-y](https://doi.org/10.1186/s13227-017-0065-y).
- Harrop, T.W.R.**[§], Ud Din, I.[§], Gregis, V., Osnato, M., Jouannic, S., Adam, H. and Kater, M. (2016). Gene expression profiling of reproductive meristem types in early rice inflorescences by laser microdissection. *The Plant Journal* 86, 75–88. [doi:10.1111/tbj.13147](https://doi.org/10.1111/tbj.13147).

Harrop, T.W.R.[§], Pearce, S.L.[§], Daborn, P.J. and Batterham, P. (2014). Whole-genome expression analysis in the third instar larval midgut of *Drosophila melanogaster*. *G3* (Bethesda) 4, 2197–2205. [doi:10.1534/g3.114.013870](https://doi.org/10.1534/g3.114.013870).

Harrop, T.W.R., Sztal, T., Lumb, C., Good, R.T., Daborn, P.J., Batterham, P. and Chung, H. (2014). Evolutionary changes in gene expression, coding sequence and copy-number at the *Cyp6g1* locus contribute to resistance to multiple insecticides in *Drosophila*. *Plos One* 9, e84879. [doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0084879](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0084879).

Daborn, P.J., Lumb, C., **Harrop, T.W.R.**, Blasetti, A., Pasricha, S., Morin, S., Mitchell, S.N., Donnelly, M.J., Müller, P. and Batterham, P. (2012). Using *Drosophila melanogaster* to validate metabolism-based insecticide resistance from insect pests. *Insect Biochemistry and Molecular Biology* 42, 918–924. [doi:10.1016/j.ibmb.2012.09.003](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ibmb.2012.09.003).

[§] Equal contribution

Book chapters

Cridge, A., **Harrop, T. W. R.**, Lovegrove, M., Remnant, E. & Dearden, P. (2017). *Nutrition and Epigenetic Change in Insects: Evidence and Implications*, in *Advances in Insect Physiology* (ed. Verlinden, H.) 53, 31–54 (Academic Press). [doi:10.1016/bs.aiip.2017.06.001](https://doi.org/10.1016/bs.aiip.2017.06.001)

Selected scientific presentations

Genomics of a weevil pest and its parasitoid biocontrol agent. **Poster presentation** at the Annual Conference of the Genetics Society of Australasia (GSA) with the New Zealand Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (NZSBMB), Dunedin, New Zealand, 2017.

De novo sequencing of Argentine stem weevil and its parasitoid wasp biocontrol agent. **Poster presentation** at the 10th Annual Arthropod Genomics Symposium, Notre Dame University, South Bend, U.S.A.

*Sequencing and community annotation of the *Vespula vulgaris* genome*. **Oral presentation** at the Entomological Society of NZ Conference, Wellington, New Zealand, 2017.

Genes controlling transition of reproductive meristem identity during inflorescence development. **Oral presentation** at the 14th International Symposium on Rice Functional Genomics, Montpellier, France, 2016.

Mechanisms underlying the parallel evolution of inflorescence phenotype during independent domestication of African and Asian rice. **Contributed oral presentation** at the 6th meeting of the European Society for Evolutionary Developmental Biology, Uppsala, Sweden, 2016. **Joint symposium chair**: Branching across the tree of life.

*Gene expression during *O. sativa* panicle development*. **Invited seminar** at the Agricultural Genetics Institute, Hanoi, Vietnam, 2015.

*Molecular mechanisms underlying the phenotypic convergence of inflorescence architecture in domesticated rice species. **Poster presentation*** at the Society for Molecular Biology and Evolution annual meeting, Vienna, Austria, 2015.

*Transcriptomic analysis of early developmental stages of the rice panicle. **Poster presentation*** at the Workshop in Molecular Mechanisms Controlling Flowering, Aiguablava, Spain, 2015

*RNA interference of the Cytochrome P450 redox partners Cpr and dare uncovers novel P450 functions in Drosophila melanogaster. **Poster presentation*** at the 50th Annual Drosophila Research Conference, Chicago, USA, 2009.

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Dunedin, NEW ZEALAND