

# April Marie Wright

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## Current Appointments

### Postdoctoral Researcher

Department of Ecology, Evolution and Organismal Biology  
Iowa State University  
*Supervisor: Dr. Tracy Heath*

### Postdoctoral Researcher

Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology  
University of Kansas  
*Supervisor: Dr. Mark Holder*

## Education

**2009-2015** PhD in Biology; University of Texas at Austin

Ecology, Evolution and Behavior  
Award Date: April 14, 2015  
*Supervisor: Dr. David M. Hillis*

**2005-2009** BA in Biology; St. Olaf College

## Publications

- **Wright AM**, Lloyd GT, Hillis DM. Accepted. Modeling character change heterogeneity in phylogenetic analyses of morphology through the use of priors. *Syst. Biol.*
- Meirelles L, Solomon S, Bacci M, **Wright AM**, Mueller, U, Rodrigues, A. 2015. Shared Escovopsis infections destabilize the tripartite co-evolution hypothesis in the higher-attine fungus-growing ant symbiosis. *R. Soc. Open Sci.* 2:9
- **Wright AM**, Lyons KM, Brandley MB, Hillis DM. 2015. Which Came First? Robustness in Phylogenetic Reconstruction of Ancestral States. *J Exp Zool B* 324: 504-516.
- **Wright AM** and Hillis DM. 2014. Bayesian Analysis Using a Simple Likelihood Model Outperforms Parsimony for Estimation of Phylogeny from Discrete Morphological Data. *PLoS One* 9:10.
- Li T, Hua J, **Wright AM**, Cui Y, Xie Q, Bu W, Hillis DM. 2014. Long-branch attraction and the phylogeny of true water bugs (Hemiptera: Nepomorpha) as estimated from mitochondrial genomes. *BMC Evol Biol* 14:99.

## Technical Reports

Hillis DM, Devitt TJ, **Wright AM** and Cannatella DC. City of Austin Report. Genomic Assessment of Taxonomic Status of Central Texas Eurycea Salamanders.

## Software

PartitionFinder-Morphology (Python) - Dataset partitioning selection for likelihood and Bayesian phylogenetics (developer - <https://github.com/wrightapril/partitionfinder>)

## Grants and Awards

- Jackson School of Geosciences: Student Travel Award. \$600. Awarded: November 2014.
- NSF DDIG: Utilizing maximum likelihood estimation for phylogenetic estimation from morphological data. \$6,820. Awarded: March 2013. Effective: September 2013.
- University of Texas College of Natural Sciences Outstanding Teaching Assistant. \$500 Awarded: April 2013.

## Invited Talks

- **Wright AM**, Lyons KM, Hillis DM and Brandley M. Estimating models of character evolution with phylogenetic uncertainty. Evolution Meetings. Raleigh, NC. June 2014.
- **Wright, AM** and Hillis, DM. Utilizing model-based methods for estimating phylogenetic trees from discrete morphological data with rate heterogeneity. University of Texas at Tyler. September 2013.

## Presentations at Scientific Meetings

- **Wright AM**, Lloyd GT, Matzke NJ, and Bapst DW. Fossils-only tip-dating of deinonychosaurian theropods: a comparison of methods and models. Society of Vertebrate Paleontology Annual Meeting. Berlin, Germany. November 2014.
- **Wright AM** and Hillis DM. Utilizing model-based methods for estimating phylogenetic trees from discrete morphological data with rate heterogeneity. Evolution Meetings. Snowbird, UT. July 2013.
- **Wright AM**, Brown JP, Slater GJ, and Hillis DM. On the utility of likelihood-based methods for phylogenetic estimation from binary data. Society of Vertebrate Paleontologists Annual Meeting. Raleigh, NC. October 2012.
- **Wright AM**, Brown JP, Harmon LJ and Hillis, DM. Model-based methods for paleontological phylogenetics. Annual BEACON Meeting. East Lansing, Michigan. July 2012. Poster Presentation.
- **Wright AM** and Hillis DM. Effects of gene conversion on phylogenetic reconstruction. Evolution Meetings. Norman, Oklahoma. July 2011. Poster presentation.
- **Wright AM** and Hillis, DM. Effects of gene conversion on phylogenetic reconstruction. Annual BEACON Meeting. East Lansing, Michigan. August 2010. Poster presentation.

## Symposia Organized

Putting Fossils in Trees. Society of Vertebrate Paleontology Annual Meeting. Berlin, Germany. November 2014. Moderators: **Wright AM**, Matzke NJ, Lloyd GT and Bapst, DW.

## Teaching Assistant Appointments

- September 2009 — May 2014: School of Biological Sciences, University of Texas at Austin.  
Courses: Advanced Systematics, Evolution, Evolution and Diversity, Lab Experience in Genetics, Human Biology, Genetics.
- Fall 2011 — Spring 2012: Statistics and Data Science Department (Formerly known as Statistics and Scientific Computing), University of Texas at Austin. Courses: Beginning Python.

- September 2006 — May 2008: St. Olaf College.  
Courses: Genetics (lab section), Evolution and Diversity (lab section).

## Courses and Workshops Developed

- October 2014: Society of Vertebrate Paleontology Annual Meeting.  
Workshop: Using fossils as tips in phylogenetic analyses.
- Spring 2013 & 2014: Center for Computational Biology and Bioinformatics, University of Texas at Austin.  
Course: Introduction to Biological Computing
- Spring 2014: Center for Computational Biology and Bioinformatics Big Data in Biology Summer School, University of Texas at Austin.  
Course: Introduction to Python for Biologists
- Fall 2014: Statistics and Data Science Department, University of Texas at Austin.  
Workshop: Intermediate Python.

## Professional Service

- SciPy 2015 Conference Diversity Committee (SciPy Conference 2015, Austin, TX)
- Software Carpentry Diversity Committee member (2014-)
- NESCent Phylotastic! Hackathon (January 2013)
- Girl Scouts TechGirls (Classroom Volunteer, 2012).
- GirlStart Girl Congress (Activity Leader, 2011)
- Travis County High School Science Fair (Judge, 2010)
- Contributor: Macroevolution Journal Club
- Blog Owner: <http://wrightaprilm.github.io/>
- **Journal reviewer for:** *American Naturalist*, *BMC Evolutionary Biology*, *Ecology Letters*, *Molecular Biology & Evolution*, *Systematic Biology*.
- **Award reviewer for:** Travel Awards, SciPy Conference (2015).
- **Society Membership:** Society of Systematic Biologists