Brenden Thomson

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Education

- Brigham Young University
  - BS in Biodiversity and Conservation, 2018—present (anticipated graduation in 2023)
  - Specific coursework in Plant Diversity, Plant Taxonomy, Genetics, Molecular Biology, Scientific Communication, Lichenology, Plant Ecology, Chemistry, Physics, Geology, and Statistics for Biologists.
  - Current GPA: 3.75
- Marcus High School
  - High School Diploma, 2014-2018

Research Work Experience

- Research Assistant, Brigham Young University, 2021—present
  - Performing molecular work in a lab setting, including DNA Extraction, PCR, and Gel Electrophoresis.
  - Work in the Vascular Plant Herbarium at the BYU Life Science Museum. Work includes morphological comparisons on museum specimens and work with microscopes.

Other Work Experience

- Support Specialist, OrderDog Inc., 2019—2022
  - Created tutorial videos for customers who purchased OrderDog products. Included experience in Adobe Premiere Pro and Adobe Photoshop.
  - Performed device setup programming for Point-of-Sale units and handheld mobile scanners to be sent to customers.
  - Assembled orders to be sent to customers and entered products into the eCommerce website.
- Sales Associate, Rift 2 Reef Aquatics, 2017—2018
  - Successfully cared for both plants and animals, in both marine and freshwater aquariums. Care included regular feedings and water changes.
  - Educated customers on different factors critical to aquarium health, such as the nitrogen cycle, salinity levels, and nutrient availability.

Publications

- Henrie, J.R.; Thomson, B.M.; Yungfleisch, A.A.; Kerr, M.; Leavitt, S.D. Characterizing Crustose Lichen Communities—DNA Metabarcoding Reveals More than Meets the Eye. *Diversity* **2022**, *14*, 766. https://doi.org/10.3390/d14090766
    - Contributed to initial drafting, DNA collection, and data analysis.

Awards/Grants

- College Undergraduate Research Award (CURA), 2021, $1500
    - Awarded for a species delimitation project proposal in the genus *Astragalus* by the BYU College of Life Sciences.

Presentations

- CURA Poster Presentation (Fall 2021)
    - Presented findings for a species delimitation project in the genus *Astragalus*.
    - Awarded 2nd place in the department of Biology against other CURA award winners.

References

- Leigh Johnson, Ph.D, Professor and Curator of BYU Life Science Museum Vascular Plant Herbarium, leigh_johnson@byu.edu
- Steve Leavitt, Ph.D., Associate Professor and Curator of Herbarium of Non-Vascular Cryptogams; steve_leavitt@byu.edu