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Born: July 2, 1984 — Reston, Virginia
Nationality: USA

Current position

2019 - *Assistant Professor*
School of Life Sciences
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
Honolulu, Hawai'i, USA

Areas of specialization

Evolutionary Biology; Plant Ecophysiology; Quantitative Biology

Past Appointments

2017 - 2018 *Scientist* – Biological Statistics for Global Agronomy
Novozymes Inc.
Durham, North Carolina, USA

Novozymes develops biological solutions to improve yield and make crops more sustainable. I lead data science for the global field trial program to commercialize new agricultural products. I developed computational workflows to process, analyze, and interpret large datasets for stakeholders.

2017 *Computational Biologist*
Poisson Consulting Ltd.
Vancouver, Canada

I helped conserve natural resources in Canada through statistical consulting for industrial and government clients. I developed open source software in R to analyze and make sense of large ecological datasets using Bayesian statistical approaches.

2015 - 2017 *Postdoctoral Researcher*
Departments of Botany and Zoology
University of British Columbia
Vancouver, Canada

2013 - 2015 *Biodiversity Postdoctoral Fellow*
Biodiversity Research Centre
University of British Columbia
Vancouver, Canada

As a postdoctoral researcher I studied fundamental problems in the evolution and ecology of biodiversity. My funding provided extraordinary independence to develop and pursue my research interests in evolutionary physiology using theory, computational approaches, phylogenetic comparative methods, and field experiments.

Education

2013 PhD in Evolutionary Biology (Geology minor)
Indiana University
Bloomington, Indiana, USA

2006 BS in Biology (Economics minor)
College of William and Mary
Williamsburg, Virginia, USA

Grants, honors & awards

Awarded

2020-2022 NSF EPSCoR RII Track 4

“Penetrating the inner lives of leaves to breed water-wise crops using math, 3D imaging, and experiments.” PI **Muir**, \$133,971

2020 UHM Office of Vice Chancellor of Research Faculty Tracel Award (\$1,779)
2019 UHM Office of Vice Chancellor of Research Faculty Tracel Award (\$2,000)
2013 - 2015 Biodiversity Postdoctoral Fellowship (UBC, \$100,000)
2012 - 2013 Payne Dissertation Year Fellowship (IU, \$20,000)
2011 Evo-Devo-Eco Network Research Exchange Experience (\$3000)
2010 Rosemary Grant Award from the Society for the Study of Evolution (\$2450)
2008 - 2012 NSF Graduate Research Fellowship (\$120,000)

2008 Charles B. Heiser Graduate Fellowship in Plant Evolution (IU, \$1000)
 2008 Indiana University Fellowship (\$10,000)
 2008 METACYT Fellowship (IU, \$10,000)
 2007 Society for Systematic Biology Graduate Research Award (\$1650)

Submitted

2019 Acquisition Performance Computing Cluster for Data Intensive Research. Collaborator.

Publications

22 peer-reviewed publications; 12 as first author

Peer-reviewed Publications

2019 Kattge J *et al.* (author 447 of 724). TRY plant trait database - enhanced coverage and open access. Accepted at *Global Change Biology*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/gcb.14904>

 [article](#)

Muir CD. tealeaves: an R package for modelling leaf temperature using energy budgets. *AoB PLANTS*. 11: plz054

 [article](#)  [preprint](#)  [code](#)  [cran](#)




Conesa MÀ, **CD Muir**, A Molins, J Galmés. Stomatal anatomy coordinates leaf size with Rubisco kinetics in the Balearic *Limonium*). *AoB PLANTS*. 11: plz050.

 [article](#)  [code](#)

Lowry DB *et al.* (author 23 of 37). The case for the continued use of the genus name *Mimulus* for all monkeyflowers. *Taxon*. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1002/tax.12122>

 [article](#)

Muir CD. Is amphistomy an adaptation to high light? Optimality models of stomatal traits along light gradients. *Integrative & Comparative Biology* 59: 571–584.

 [article](#)  [preprint](#)  [code](#)

Bontrager M, **CD Muir**, AL Angert. Geographic and climatic drivers of reproductive assurance in *Clarkia pulchella*. *Oecologia* 190: 59–67.

 [article](#)  [preprint](#)  [code](#)

2018 **Muir CD**. Light and growth form interact to shape stomatal ratio among British angiosperms. *New Phytologist* 218: 242–52.

 [article](#)  [preprint](#)  [code](#)  [data](#)

2017

Muir CD & AL Angert. Grow with the flow: a latitudinal cline in physiology is associated with more variable precipitation in *Erythranthe cardinalis*. *Journal of Evolutionary Biology* 30: 2189-203.

 [article](#)  [preprint](#)  [code](#)  [data](#)

MÀ Conesa, **CD Muir**, EJ Roldán, A Molins, JA Perdomo, J Galmés. Growth capacity in wild tomatoes and relatives correlates with original climate in arid and semi-arid species. *Environmental and Experimental Botany* 141: 181-90.

 [article](#)

Guerrero RF, **CD Muir**, S Josway, LC Moyle. Pervasive antagonistic interactions among hybrid incompatibility loci. *PLoS Genetics* 13: e1006817.

 [article](#)  [preprint](#)

Muir CD, MÀ Conesa, EJ Roldán, A Molins, J Galmés. Weak coordination between leaf structure and function among closely related tomato species. *New Phytologist* 213: 1642-53.

 [article](#)  [data](#)

2015

Muir CD & M Thomas-Huebner (undergraduate coauthor). Constraint around quarter-power allometric scaling in wild tomatoes (*Solanum* sect. *Lycopersicon*; Solanaceae). *The American Naturalist* 186: 421-33.

 [article](#)  [data](#)

Muir CD. Making pore choices: repeated regime shifts in stomatal ratio. *Proc R Soc B* 282: 20151498.

 [article](#)  [data](#)

2014

Muir CD & MW Hahn. The limited contribution of reciprocal gene loss to increased speciation rates following whole genome duplication. *The American Naturalist* 185: 70-86.

 [article](#)  [data](#)

Muir CD, JB Pease, LC Moyle. Quantitative genetic analysis indicates natural selection on leaf phenotypes across wild tomato species (*Solanum* sect. *Lycopersicon*; Solanaceae). *Genetics* 198: 1629-43.

 [article](#)  [data](#)

Muir CD, RP Hangarter, LC Moyle, PA Davis. Morphological and anatomical determinants of mesophyll conductance in wild relatives of tomato (*Solanum* sect. *Lycopersicon* and sect. *Lycopersicoides*). *Plant, Cell & Environment* 37: 1415-26.

 [article](#)

2013 **Muir CD**. How did the Swiss cheese plant get its holes? *The American Naturalist* 181: 273-81.

 [article](#)

2012 Hahn MW, BJ White, **CD Muir**, NJ Besansky. No evidence for biased co- transmission of speciation islands in *Anopheles gambiae*. *Phil. Trans. R. Soc. B* 367: 374-84.

 [article](#)

2010 Moyle LC & **CD Muir**. Reciprocal insights into adaptation from agricultural and evolutionary studies in tomato. *Evolutionary Applications* 3: 409-21.

 [article](#)

Moyle LC, **CD Muir**, MV Han, MW Hahn. The contribution of gene movement to the 'Two Rules of Speciation'. *Evolution* 64: 1541-57.

 [article](#)

2009 **Muir CD** & LC Moyle. Antagonistic epistasis for ecophysiological trait differences between *Solanum* species. *New Phytologist* 183: 789-802.

 [article](#)

Wilczek AM *et al.* (author 7 of 18). Effects of genetic perturbation on seasonal life history plasticity. *Science* 323: 930-4.

 [article](#)

Preprints (not peer-reviewed)

Muir CD. A stomatal model of anatomical tradeoffs between photosynthesis and pathogen defense.

 [preprint](#)  [code](#)

Muir CD, MÀ Conesa, J Galmés. Independent evolution of ab- and adaxial stomatal density enables adaptation.

 [preprint](#)

Other manuscripts in review

Egan CP, J Koko, **CD Muir**, G Zahn, SOI Swift, AS Amend, NA Hynson. Restoration of the mycobiome of the endangered Hawaiian mint *Phyllostegia kaalaensis* increases its pathogen resistance.

 [code](#)

Gorné LD, *et al.* (author 6 of 13). The leaf economics spectrum emerges at the intraspecific level even under homogenous environmental conditions. In review at *Annals of Botany*.

Conesa MÀ, JJ Peguero-Pina, **CD Muir**, A Molins, EJ Roldán, E Gil-Pelegrín, J Galmés. Leaf hydraulics and venation traits are decoupled in the tomatoes and relatives (*Solanum* sect. *Lycopersicon* sect. *Juglandifolia* and sect. *Lycopersicoides*). Revising for *Physiologia Plantarum*.

Open-source Software

tealeaves: Solve for Leaf Temperature Using Energy Balance

 [github](#)  [cran](#)

photosynthesis: Model C_3 Photosynthesis

 [github](#)  [cran](#)

gunit: Converts Conductance Units

 [github](#)  [cran](#)

leafoptimizer: Optimize leaf traits to different environments *in silico*

 [github](#)

bayCi: Bayesian analysis of $A - C_i$ response curves using RStan

 [github](#)

smbr: R package to facilitate analyses using STAN

 [github](#)

Talks

Invited Seminars (23 since 2012)

2020 University of California, Berkeley, Botany Lunch Seminar, *Global patterns of stomatal evolution and local adaptation*

2019

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Ecology, Evolution and Conservation Biology Evolution Series, *Climate anomalies are altering local adaptation.*

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Department of Tropical Plant and Soil Sciences, *Global patterns of stomatal evolution and local adaptation.*

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Department of Tropical Plant and Soil Sciences, *Synthesizing evolution and ecophysiology using leaves, trees, and math.*

2018 University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Department of Botany, *Synthesizing evolution and ecophysiology using leaves, trees, and math.*

Michigan State University, *Evolving resilience: Lessons from the ecophysiology of crop cousins and other wild plants.*

2017 University of Virginia, *How and Why? Synthesizing Evolution and Physiology.*
Rice University, *How and Why? Synthesizing Evolution and Physiology.*
Purdue University, *How and Why? Synthesizing Evolution and Physiology.*

2016 University of Arizona, *How and Why? Synthesizing Evolution and Physiology.*
University of Arkansas, *How and Why? Synthesizing Evolution and Physiology.*
University of Wyoming, *How and Why? Synthesizing Evolution and Physiology.*
University of Pittsburgh, *How and Why? Synthesizing Evolution and Physiology.*

2015 Virginia Tech, *How and Why? Synthesizing Evolution and Physiology.*
University of Texas, Arlington, *How and Why? Synthesizing Evolution and Physiology.*
University California, Davis, *How and Why? Synthesizing Evolution and Physiology.*
Purdue University, *Is it time for an evolutionary physiological synthesis, yet?.*

2014 ETH Zürich, *The physiology and genetics of adaptation.*
Simon Fraser University, *Phenotypic variation and constraint.*
Harvard University Herbarium, *Why do some plants have stomata on both leaf surfaces?.*
University of British Columbia, *Is it time for an evolutionary physiological synthesis, yet?.*
Michigan State University, *Is it time for an evolutionary physiological synthesis, yet?.*

2012 University of Virginia EEBio Seminar, *Through thick and thin: the adaptive significance of leaf trait variation in wild tomatoes.*

Invited Conference Presentations

2019 **Muir CD.** *Synthesizing evolution and ecophysiology using leaves, trees, and math.* Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology, Tampa, Florida, USA.

2016 **Muir CD.** *What is evolutionary physiology?.* Evolution, Austin, Texas, USA.

2012 **Muir CD.** *Functional and genetic analysis of leaf traits associated with drought in wild tomatoes* (Poster). Ecological Genomics Symposium, Kansas City, Missouri, USA.

Contributed Conference Presentations

2020 Bontrager M, **CD Muir**, C Mahony, DE Gamble, RM Germain, AL Hargreaves, EJ Kleynhans, KA Thompson, AL Angert. Climate anomalies are altering local adaptation. *Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology*. Austin, Texas.

2019 **Muir CD.** Open source computational tools for plant ecophysiology. *SACNAS*. Honolulu, Hawai'i.

This presentation is part of the symposium *Abupua'a: From the mountains to the ocean. Desde la montaña hasta el océano* co-organized by Rosana Zenil-Ferguson, Emily Sessa, and myself.

Muir CD. Poster: Assimilation *in silico* and in practice: Open source computational tools for simulating CO₂ assimilation and fitting models to data. *Gordon Research Conference: CO₂ Assimilation in Plants from Genome to Biome*. Newry, Maine.

2017 Conesa MÀ, **CD Muir**, EJ Roldán, JJ Piguero-Pina, A Molins, J Galmés. Poster: Adaptive strategies in tomato wild relatives: sources to adapt tomato crop to more water-restrictive cultivation conditions. *XIV Solanaceae and 3rd Cucurbitaceae Joint Conference*. Barcelona, Spain.

2015 **Muir CD** & M Thomas-Huebner. Constraint around quarter-power allometric scaling in wild tomatoes. *Botany*, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

2014 **Muir CD**, JB Pease, LC Moyle. Connecting macroevolution to the genetics of adaptation: a case study using stomatal ratio. *Evolution*, Raleigh, North Carolina, USA

Muir CD. Pore choices: the adaptive significance of stomatal ratio. *American Society of Naturalists*, Asilomar, California, USA

2013 **Muir CD.** Pore choices: the adaptive significance of stomatal ratio. *Evolution*, Snowbird, Utah, USA

Muir CD. Poster: Functional and genetic analysis of leaf traits associated with drought in wild tomatoes. *Society of Integrative and Comparative Biology*, San Francisco, California, USA

2012 **Muir CD.** Through thick and thin: the adaptive significance of leaf trait variation in wild tomatoes. *Evolution*, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

2010

Muir CD. Genetics of drought adaptation in wild tomatoes. *Evolution*, Portland, Oregon, USA

2008 Evolution, Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA

2006 Evolution, Stony Brook, New York, USA

Professional Activities, Affiliations & Outreach

Editor

2016 - 2017 Axios Review

External Grant Reviews

2017 Austrian Science Fund (FWF)

2016 NSF Division of Environmental Biology

Manuscript Reviews

American Journal of Botany, American Naturalist, Applications in Plant Sciences, Botany, Current Biology, Evolution, Global Ecology and Biogeography, International Journal of Plant Sciences, Journal of Evolutionary Biology, Molecular Biology and Evolution, Molecular Ecology, Nature Ecology and Evolution, New Phytologist, Photosynthesis Research, Physiologia Plantarum, Plant Physiology, PLOS Biology, PLOS ONE, Proceedings B, Scientific Reports, Theoretical Population Biology

University Service

2019 Global Change Botanist Faculty Search Committee

School of Life Sciences Instructional Workload Survey Committee

2014 - 2015 Botany department scholarship reviewer Organized UBC Biodiversity Lunchtime Internal Seminar Series (BLISS)

Professional Service

2019 - 2021 Secretary, Division of Botany, Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology (SICB)

2020 SICB Rising Star in Organismal Botany competition judge

2013 - 2015 Co-organizer SFU/UBC/UVic Ecology and Evolution Retreat

Professional Society Memberships

- The American Society of Naturalists
- Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology

Mentorship & Teaching

Graduate Student Committees

Ana Flores (interim member)
Lauren Nerfa (interim member)
Devon DeBevoise (member)
Caitlyn Genovese (member)

Undergraduate Thesis Committees

Amanda Wong (member)

Other student mentorship

2017 Selina Dhanani, Alyson Eng, Geety Hafizi, Curtis Logan, Emily Okun (UBC)
2016 Vicki Thill and Austin Koontz (Univ Nevada-Reno undergraduates)
2015 Courtney van den Elzen (UBC)
2014 Lisa Lin and Erin Warkman (UBC Work-learn students)
2012 Meret Thomas-Huebner (Indiana University NSF REU)

Teaching experience

Instructor of Record

2020 BIOL 470: Evolution (University of Hawai'i)
BIOL / BOT 297: Biostatistics (University of Hawai'i)
2019 BIOL / BOT 455: Analysis of Biological Data (University of Hawai'i)

Teaching Assistant

2008 Biology L318: Evolution (Indiana University)
2007 Biology L111: Evolution and Diversity (Indiana University)

Interviews and Press Coverage

Plantae: [Faculty Job: Myths & Realities - an interview with Christopher Muir](#)

Discover: [“Why Do Houseplants Have Holey Leaves?”](#)
<https://discovermagazine.com/2014/april/2-o-hole-leaf>

New Phytologist: [“Plant evolutionary ecology: molecular genetics, global warming and invasions, and the novel approaches we are using to study adaptations”](#) <https://dx.doi.org/10.1111/nph.12028>

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