

# Christopher D. Muir

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

## Current position

2019 - *Assistant Professor*  
Department of Botany  
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

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*. <https://doi.org/10.1093/aobpla/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*. <https://doi.org/10.1093/aobpla/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**, 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. In Review at *Phytobiomes*.

 [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<sub>3</sub> 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 Evolvecon 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 CO<sub>2</sub> assimilation and fitting models to data. *Gordon Research Conference: CO<sub>2</sub> 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  
Botany department scholarship reviewer

### Professional Service

2019 - 2021    Secretary, Division of Botany, Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology  
2013 - 2015    Co-organizer SFU/UBC/UVic Ecology and Evolution Retreat  
2014 - 2015    Organized UBC Biodiversity Lunchtime Internal Seminar Series (BLISS)

### 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

2015 Courtney van den Elzen - Local adaptation to climate in monkeyflowers  
2012 Meret Thomas-Huebner (NSF REU) - Constraint around quarter-power allometric scaling in wild tomatoes

## Other undergraduate assistants:

2017 Selina Dhanani, Alyson Eng, Geety Hafizi, Curtis Logan, Emily Okun  
2016 Vicki Thill and Austin Koontz (Univ Nevada-Reno undergraduates)  
2014 Lisa Lin and Erin Warkman (UBC Work-learn students)

## Teaching experience

2020 Instructor for BIOL / BOT 297: Biostatistics (University of Hawai'i)  
2019 Instructor for BIOL / BOT 455: Analysis of Biological Data (University of Hawai'i)  
2008 Assistant Instructor for L318: Evolution (Indiana University)  
2007 Assistant Instructor for L111: Evolution and Diversity (Indiana University)

## Press Coverage

*Discover*: “[Why Do Houseplants Have Holey Leaves?](https://discovermagazine.com/2014/april/2-o-hole-leaf)”  
<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)”  
<https://dx.doi.org/10.1111/nph.12028>