

# Cory J. Penca

Biologist - USDA APHIS PPQ S&T  
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## Education

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2019 – Doctor of Philosophy, Entomology. Department of Entomology and Nematology, Gainesville, FL.

2019 – Doctor of Plant of Medicine. College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL.

2015 – Master of Science in Natural Resource Policy and Administration  
School of Forestry and Resource Conservation, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL.

2011 – Bachelor of Science, Botany, Pre-professional Track and Biology, Natural Science Track, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL.

## Professional Experience

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May 2019 – Present

Biologist, United States Department of Agriculture, Animal Plant Health Inspection Service, Plant Protection and Quarantine, Miami, FL.

- Conducted research on phytosanitary treatments.
- Developed systems approaches to allow the movement of agricultural goods while mitigating the risk of spreading invasive quarantine pests.
- Evaluated operational procedures for the eradication and containment of major plant pathogens

May 2015 – May 2019.

Graduate Research Assistant. Department of Entomology and Nematology, The University of Florida, Gainesville, FL.

- Produced and delivered extension workshops and materials related to invasive species in Florida.
- Conducted a survey of pests in Florida's subtropical peach industry and established the groundwork for the development of Florida Peach IPM.
- Assisted in the delivery of the Old World Bollworm identification workshop, including the production of educational materials, curation of museum materials, and travel to Puerto Rico for collection of field specimens.
- Performed laboratory studies on the reproductive diapause of invasive heteropteran pests.
- Provided entomological support for an OREI project on organic high tunnel vegetable production in the southeast

- Designed and taught a graduate level course on economic entomology and guest lectured on multiple occasions.

June 2017 – May 2019

Student Trainee (Biological Sciences), Pathways Internship Program, United States Department of Agriculture, Animal Plant Health Inspection Service, Plant Protection and Quarantine, Gainesville, FL.

- Received training, experience and professional development as an employee of the federal government.
- Participated in special projects related to plant health and plant protection in the state of Florida, with a focus on issues relevant to the greater Caribbean region.
- Analyzed insect detection data from tephritid survey and inspection programs to provide guidance for policy decisions.

July 2018 – November 2018

Intern, Global R&D -Entomology Department, Driscoll's, Watsonville, CA.

- Conducted research on entomopathogenic nematode production targeting pests of berry crops.
- Investigate endophytic growth of entomopathogenic fungi in strawberries as a possible defense against twospotted spider mite.
- Evaluated efficacy of grower-produced botanical pesticides

March 2013 – January 2015

Laboratory Technician IV, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Plant Industry, Gainesville, FL.

- Assisted DPI Biological Scientists in the design, testing and application of methods and techniques for the biological control of agricultural pests.
- Assisted with studies related to the biology and life cycle of the Giant African Land Snail, as well as its responses to attractants.
- Field collected specimens for use in choice/no-choice tests for the biological control of the brown marmorated stink bug.
- Performed DNA extraction and PCR on *Oxycarenus hyalinipennis*, the cotton seed bug.

August 2011 – March 2013

Horticulturist, Kanapaha Botanical Gardens, Gainesville, FL.

- Managed garden greenhouses and propagation efforts.
- Performed basic gardening tasks such as planting, irrigation, weeding and mulching.
- Carried out safe and effective use of herbicides and pesticides.
- Directed and supervised volunteers in the role of volunteer coordinator.
- Provided the public with information and assistance related to the garden's collection.

## Publications

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### *Journal Articles (refereed)*

- Penca, C., Hodges, A. C., Leppla, N. C., & Cottrell, T. E. (2020). Trap-Based Economic Injury Levels and Thresholds for *Euschistus servus* (Hemiptera: Pentatomidae) in Florida Peach Orchards. *Journal of Economic Entomology*.
- Penca, C. and A.C. Hodges. (2018). First report of brown marmorated stink bug (Hemiptera: Pentatomidae) reproduction and localized establishment in Florida. *Florida Entomologist*, 101 (4), 708-711
- Penca, C., & Hodges, A. C. (2017). Pyriproxyfen treatment terminates *Halyomorpha halys* reproductive diapause, with an indirect mortality effect on its egg parasitoid *Trissolcus japonicus*. *Journal of Pest Science*, 90(4), 1269-1276.
- Penca, C., A. C. Hodges, L. L. Davis, N. C. Leppla, & R. C. Hochmuth. 2017. Abundance and diversity of beneficial and pest arthropods in buckwheat on blueberry and vegetable farms in north Florida. *Florida Entomologist* 100(1).
- Penca, C, D.C. Adams and J. Hulcr. 2016. The Cuba-Florida Pest Pathway. *Insecta Mundi*. 0490.

### *Journal Articles, In Preparation*

- Penca, C. N.C. Goltz, A.C. Hodges, N. C. Leppla, J.E. Eger, & T.R. Smith. The Use of Pyriproxyfen to Induce Oogenesis in Diapausing *Megacopta cribaria* (Heteroptera: Plataspidae), and the Evaluation of Pyriproxyfen-Induced Eggs for Rearing the Parasitoid *Paratelenomus saccharalis* (Hymenoptera: Scelionidae).
- Penca, C., A.C. Hodges, N. C. Leppla, & T.E. Cottrell. Development and Threshold-Independent Evaluation of Sequential Sampling Plans for Stink Bug Injury in Florida Peaches

### *Extension Publications*

- Penca, C. and A.C. Hodges 2019. The Brown Marmorated Stink Bug. UF/IFAS Extension, EENY346
- Penca, C. and A.C. Hodges 2019. Caribbean Fruit Fly Management in Florida Peaches. UF/IFAS Extension, ENY343.
- Penca, C 2019. Non-Crop Hosts of Agriculturally Important Organisms in the Natural Area Teaching Lab. NATL Minigrant program, final report and brochure. UF/IFAS.
- Penca, C. 2018. Pest Alert Blog. End of Peach Season Stink Bug Counts (May) & The brown marmorated stink bug, now a pest of limited distribution in Florida (Sept). UF/IFAS Blogs, <http://blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/pestalert/>.

Penca, C., S. Stocks, J. Hamel, A.C. Hodges and L. Whilby. 2017. Identification Guide to Florida's Invasive Plant-Pests. UF-IFAS Extension. 107 pp.

### *Reports and Technical Publications*

Penca, C 2020. Systems Approach for Puerto Rican Mango Fruit Exported to the European Union. USDA-APHIS-PPQ.

Penca, C 2020. Safeguarding Protocol for the Transport of Cherry Fruit for Processing Outside the ECFE Quarantine Zone. USDA-APHIS-PPQ.

Penca, C., H. Chen, and S.W. Weihman. Guidance on the Destruction and Treatment of ToBRFV Infected Plant Materials. USDA-APHIS-PPQ.

Penca, C. 2019. Justification for Fruit Fly Surveillance in the Dominican Republic. Produced for USDA-APHIS-PPQ Florida State Plant Health Director's Office.

Penca, C . 2016 (editor) Old World Bollworm, *Helicoverpa armigera*, Identification Training Session (Manual). 161 pp.

### **Presentations**

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#### *Meetings & Invited Seminars*

2020 – Phytosanitary Irradiation Research Update. The Ninth Annual Chapman Phytosanitary Irradiation Forum, Melbourne, Australia. Canceled due to Covid-19 pandemic.

2020 – Penca, C. Supporting Agriculture as an APHIS Phytosanitary Scientist: Experiences from a Recent Graduate. UF Tropical Research and Education Center, Homestead, Florida.

2019 – Penca, C. and A.C. Hodges. Characterizing the Heteropteran Pest Complex in Florida Peaches with a Focus on the Establishment of the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug. Meeting of the Florida Entomology Society, Jupiter, FL.

2019 – Penca, C. and A.C. Hodges. Economic thresholds for cat-facing pests of Florida peaches. Meeting of the Southeastern Branch of the Entomological Society of America. Mobile, AL.

2019 – Penca, C. The Caribbean Pest Pathway: addressing areas of recent concern. Invited Seminar at the UF Tropical Research and Extension Center, Homestead, FL.

2018 – Penca, C and A.C. Hodges. Optimizing sampling plans for cat-facing pests of Florida peaches. Annual Meeting of the Entomological Society of America. Vancouver, B.C.

- 2018 – Penca, C. Economic Benefits of Fruit Fly Surveillance: a case study using the experiences of Florida and the Dominican Republic. Caribbean Plant Health Directors Forum. Montego Bay, Jamaica.
- 2018 – Penca, C and A.C. Hodges. Using outreach and extension to guide research in Florida's nascent subtropical peach industry. Meeting of the Southeastern Branch of the Entomological Society of America. Orlando, FL.
- 2018 – Penca, C. Analysis of fruit fly surveillance in the Dominican Republic. Presented to the USDA-APHIS-PPQ Greater Caribbean Safeguarding Initiative. Gainesville, FL.
- 2017 – Penca, C. and A.C. Hodges. Characterization of the cat-facing pest complex and the spatiotemporal dynamics of cat-facing injury in Florida's peach orchards. Entomology 2017. Denver, CO.
- 2017 – Penca, C. and A.C. Hodges. Insect Pests of Concern in Florida's Subtropical Peach Orchards. 2017 Southeastern Professional Fruit Workers Conference. Mills River, NC.
- 2017 – Penca, C. and A.C. Hodges. Pest Status of Cat-Facing Heteroptera in Subtropical Peach Production. 100<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Florida Entomological Society. San Juan, Puerto Rico.
- 2017 – Penca, C. and A.C. Hodges. Dose response to pyriproxyfen in diapausing *Halyomorpha halys* (Hemiptera: Pentatomidae), *Megacopta cribraria* (Hemiptera: Plataspidae) and their hymenopteran egg parasitoids. Meeting of the Southeastern Branch of the Entomological Society of America. Memphis, TN.
- 2017 – Penca, C. Invasive Species, the Caribbean Pathway, and Cuba. Presentation to USDA-APHIS-PPQ State Plant Health Director's Office. Gainesville, FL.
- 2016 – Penca, C., M.C. Olmstead and A.C. Hodges. A Multi-Year Survey of Stink Bugs in Florida's Subtropical Peaches: 2016 Results. Southeast Fruit Professional Workers Conference, Gainesville, FL.
- 2016 – Penca, C. and A.C. Hodges. The effects of the JH analogues on diapausing *Halyomorpha halys*, *Megacopta cribraria* and *Nezara viridula* and associated hymenopteran egg parasitoids (Poster). International Congress of Entomology, Orlando, FL.
- 2016 – Penca, C, and A.C. Hodges. The effects of JH analogues on diapausing *Halyomorpha halys* and *Megacopta cribraria*. Meeting of the Southeastern Branch of the Entomological Society of America. Raleigh, NC.

*Extension and Outreach*

- 2020 – Penca, C. DPM Internships: A Pathway to Employment. Flora and Fauna Fest, Gainesville, FL.
- 2018 – Practical Pest Management for Florida’s Subtropical Peaches. Stone Fruit Field Day. May 29<sup>th</sup> 2018, Citra, FL.
- 2018 – Preparing for the Arrival of the Old World Bollworm, *Helicoverpa armigera*, in Florida. Florida Ornamental IPM Workshop. February 7<sup>th</sup> 2018. Gainesville, FL.
- 2018 – Native and Exotic Stink Bugs. Florida First Detector Workshop, Marion County Cooperative Extension Office. Ocala, Florida.
- 2018 – Snails and Slugs of Note. Florida First Detector Workshop, Marion County Cooperative Extension Office. Ocala, Florida.
- 2017 – Palm Weevils, Florida First Detector Workshop, Sumter County Cooperative Extension Office. Bushnell, Florida.
- 2016 – Sentinel Plant Network, diagnosis and identification of insect damage to plants training session. New Orleans, LA. April 19-20th.
- Provided classroom and hands-on instruction to SPN members on the diagnosis and identification of insects.
  - Assisted in a curated “garden-walk” to identify signs of plant pests and diseases.
  - Presented information on pests of concern to participants.
- 2015 – Florida First Detector Workshop Series, Hands on training of identification of invasive exotic pests of concern.
- Presented materials related to the identification of invasive species to a diverse audience, including master gardeners and industry professionals
  - Provided live and curated samples of insect pests for educational purposes
  - Edited publically available extension presentation
- 2015 – Brown marmorated stink bug, Florida First Detector Workshop, Bradford County Cooperative Extension. Starke, FL.
- 2015 – Snails and Slugs of Note, Florida First Detector Workshop, Miami-Dade Cooperative Extension. Homestead, FL.
- 2015 – Snails and Slugs of Note, Sumter County Cooperative Extension Office. Bushnell, Florida.
- 2015 – Bagrada bug, Florida First Detector Workshop, St. Johns County Cooperative Extension, St. Augustine, FL.

## Teaching Experience

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2019 – Guest Lecturer, HOS 4283C Advanced Organic and Sustainable Crop Production

- Guest lectured on the use of traps for pest monitoring
- Developed materials to introduce concepts to non-entomology students
- Provided a hands on demonstration of insect monitoring tools and techniques

2019 – Teaching Assistant, ALS 6921 Colloquium of Plant Pests of Regulatory Significance

- Provided input on regulatory entomology issues
- Guest lectured on import restrictions and quarantine treatments

2018 – Coordinator and Instructor, Natural Area Teaching Lab Insect Trap Demonstration Day.

- Organized an event aimed at teaching students about various insect trap designs and their effective deployment in the field
- Hosted presenters from several laboratories and a survey specialist from the cooperative agricultural pest survey (CAPS)
- Presented on trapping methods for Curculionidae

2017 – Co-instructor, ENY 6905 Economically Important Pests of Florida Agriculture: Identification and Management. Summer 2017.

- Helped design and instruct a course focused on the identification and management of agricultural pests and the principles of economic entomology

2017 – Mentor for Undergraduate Student Richie Konowal.

- Guided a semester long research project (for credit)
- Provided Instruction on reproductive biology of Heteroptera.
- Focused on experimental design and statistical analysis.

2016 – Guest Lecturer, ALS 4161/6166 Exotic Species and Biosecurity Issues. September 14<sup>th</sup>.

- Provided a live and recorded lecture about invasive species, the Caribbean and Cuba.
- Lectured on the concept of propagule pressure and the potential impacts of changes to the US embargo of Cuba.
- Encouraged discussion about the nexus of economics, politics, science and agriculture issues and the role of biosecurity in global trade.

2016 – Old World bollworm, *Helicoverpa armigera*, identification training session, Gainesville, FL. April 7-8<sup>th</sup>.

- Assisted in the instruction of proper dissection technique of *Helicoverpa armigera*.
- Assembled instructor materials into a manual.
- Assisted in workshop logistics.

## Service and Outreach

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- 2020 – Grant Reviewer, PPA 7721 Group 2 Panel.
- 2020 – US Representative on the Plant Health Quadrilateral’s Methyl Bromide Alternative Research Group.
- 2019 – Symposium Organizer/Moderator, Uncharted Territory: Entomology in Support of Florida’s Emerging Crops and Production, Florida Entomological Society Annual Meeting, Jupiter, Florida.
- 2018 – UF Entomology Department Outreach, Hernando County Home School Event, November 30th, 2018, Gainesville, FL.
- 2019 – Reviewer, The Florida Entomologist.
- 2018 – Search Committee, Student Representative for the Biosecurity/IPM lecturer position, March to August 2018.
- 2018 – Presentation Subcommittee for the 2018 meeting of the Southeastern Branch of the Entomological Society of America in Orlando, FL.
- 2018 – Student Representative to the local arrangement committee for the 2018 meeting of the Southeastern Branch of the Entomological Society of America in Orlando, FL.
- 2017 – Marion County Ag-Literacy Day. Legacy Elementary School, Ocala, FL. November 29<sup>th</sup>.
- 2017 – USDA-APHIS Charitable Campaign, Bread of the Mighty Foodbank Volunteer
- 2016 – Marion County Ag-Literacy Day. Legacy Elementary School, Ocala, FL. November 29<sup>th</sup>

## Grants & Research Support

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- 2020 to Present –Internal (non-base) funding awarded to support current research projects (\$15,000).
- 2019 – CO-PI, Plant Protection Act Section 7721, Project 1A.0086. Multi-Institutional Analysis of Surveillance and Molecular Diagnostic Procedures for *Helicoverpa armigera* (\$103,049).
- 2019 – CO-PI, Plant Protection Act Section 7721, Project 6.0194. Characterization of BMSB establishment in Florida to support biological control and mitigation (\$145,424).
- 2018–CO-PI, Southern IPM Center Enhancement Grants. Foundational research for the development of IPM in Florida’s subtropical peach industry (\$39,414).



2018 – UF Natural Area Teaching Lab Minigrant. Non-Crop hosts of agriculturally important organisms in the Natural Area Teaching Lab. (\$390.00).

2017 – CO-PI, USDA Farm Bill Section 10007, Project 1S.0195.00, A Survey of Hemipteran Cat -Facing Insects and Plum Pox Virus in Florida's Emerging "Low -Chill" Peach Industry (\$45,423).

2017 – CO-PI, Bayer CropScience, Services Agreement, Red-banded Stink Bug, *Piezodorus guildinii* Field Collection and Colony Rearing (\$39,137).

### **Awards and Honors**

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2018 – Florida Fertilizer and Agrichemical Association Scholarship awarded by the University of Florida College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

2018 – First Place, Linnaean Games. Meeting of the Southeastern Branch of the Entomological Society of America. Orlando, FL.

2018 – Second Place, Graduate 10-min Oral Presentations: Teaching, Extension and Outreach. Meeting of the Southeastern Branch of the Entomological Society of America. Orlando, FL.

2017 – Second Place, Graduate 10-min Oral Presentations: P-IE, IPM, Horticulture. Meeting of the Entomological Society of America. Denver CO.

2017 – First Place, PhD Oral Presentations, 100<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Florida Entomological Society. San Juan, Puerto Rico.

2017 – A.S. Herlong Graduate Scholarship awarded by the University of Florida College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

2017 – Florida Entomological Society Graduate Student Scholarship

2017 – UF Graduate Student Travel Scholarship

2017 – First Place – Linnean Games, Meeting of the Southeastern Branch of the Entomological Society of America. Memphis, TN.

2016 – Second Place – PhD Oral Presentations, Meeting of the Southeastern Branch of the Entomological Society of America. Raleigh, NC.

2016 – Second Place, Linnaean Games. Meeting of the Entomological Society of America. Minneapolis, Minn.

## **Professional Associations**

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Entomological Society of America, Florida Entomological Society, International Heteropterist Society.