Ethan P. White

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Professional Preparation

2005   PhD Biology (with distinction), University of New Mexico
1998   BA Biology (*magna cum laude*), Colorado College

Appointments

2012-   Associate Professor, Dept. of Biology and Ecology Center, Utah State University
2012-   Senior Scientist, Sevilleta Long-Term Ecological Research Station
2007-2012   Assistant Professor, Dept. of Biology and Ecology Center, Utah State University
2005-2007   NSF Postdoctoral Fellow in Biological Informatics, Univ. of AZ & U.C. Merced

Awards and Fellowships

NSF CAREER 'Young Investigators' Award 2010-2015
NSF Postdoctoral Fellowship in Biological Informatics 2005-2007
NSF Graduate Research Fellowship 2000-2005

Five Most Relevant Publications and Products

Morris, B.D. and E.P. White. 2013. The EcoData Retriever: improving access to existing ecological data. PLOS ONE 8:e65848. http://doi.org/doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0065848. Website. GitHub.

Locey, K.J. and E.P. White. 2013. How species richness and total abundance constrain the distribution of abundance. Ecology Letters. 16:1177-1185. http://doi.org/10.1111/ele.12154

White, E.P., E. Baldridge, Z.T. Brym, K.J. Locey, D.J. McGlinn, S.R. Supp. 2013. Nine simple ways to make it easier to (re)use your data. Ideas in Ecology and Evolution 6(2):1-10. http://doi.org/10.4033/iee.2013.6b.6.f

White, E.P., K.M. Thibault, and X. Xiao. 2012. Characterizing species-abundance distributions across taxa and ecosystems using a simple maximum entropy model. Ecology 93:1772-1778. http://doi.org/10.1890/11-2177.1

White, E.P., S.K.M. Ernest, P.B. Adler, A.H. Hurlbert, and S.K. Lyons. 2010. Integrating spatial and temporal approaches to understanding species richness. Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B 365:3633-3643. http://doi.org/10.1098/rstb.2010.0280

Five Other Publications and Products

Wilson, G., D.A. Aruliah, C.T. Brown, N.P. Chue Hong, M. Davis, R.T. Guy, S.H.D. Haddock, K. Huff, I. Mitchell, M. Plumbley, B. Waugh, E.P. White, and P. Wilson. 2014. Best practices for scientific computing. PLOS Biology. 12:e1001745. http://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pbio.1001745

Thibault, K.M., E.P. White, A.H. Hurlbert, and S.K.M. Ernest. 2011. Multimodality in the individual size distribution of bird communities. Global Ecology and Biogeography 20:145-153. http://doi.org/10.1111/j.1466-8238.2010.00576.x

Xiao, X., White, E.P., M.B. Hooten, and S.L. Durham. 2011. On the use of log-transformation vs. nonlinear regression for analyzing biological power-laws. Ecology 92:1887-1894. http://doi.org/10.1890/11-0538.1

White, E.P. and A.H. Hurlbert. 2010. The combined influence of the local environment and regional enrichment on bird species richness. American Naturalist 172:E35-E43. http://doi.org/10.1086/649578

Price, C.A., K. Ogle, E.P. White, and J.S. Weitz. 2009. Evaluating scaling models in biology using hierarchical Bayesian approaches. Ecology Letters 12:641-651. http://doi.org/10.1111/j.1461-0248.2009.01316.x

Synergistic Activities

Ecological Data Wiki: Founder and developer of a wiki based website that allows ecologists to collaborate on the discovery and use of available ecological datasets (http://ecologicaldata.org). The site has been viewed nearly 75,000 times by users in over 140 countries.

EcoData Retriever: Leader of an open source software project that downloads, cleans up, restructures, and installs ecological datasets so that scientists can focus on doing science (http://ecodataretriever.org). Code is available on GitHub. Altmetrics show that the Retriever is highly recommended and highly cited. The installers for the last release have been downloaded over 500 times.

Computational Biology Course & Website Development: Developed a suite of university courses on computational methods for biologists. Course material is available online to facilitate broader learning (http://programmingforbiologists.org) and has been viewed over 140,000 times by users in over 170 countries.

Software Carpentry: Advisory board member, instructor, and maintainer of intermediate material for a non-profit that provides training in computational best practices to scientists (http://software-carpentry.org). Examples of my contributions to the instructional material include an introduction to Python for non-Python programmers and material on modularization and documentation. I have organized and taught 8 workshops in the last 2 years, and members of my research group been involved in more than 10 additional workshops.

Impactstory Board of Directors: Member of the board of directors for Impactstory, a non-profit whose goal is to improve the practice of science by providing tools to quantify the broad impact of diverse research products including software, datasets, presentations and publications.

Collaborators and Other Affiliations

Collaborators: P. Adler (Utah State), D.A. Aruliah (U. Ontario), C.T. Brown (Michigan St.), J. Coyle (U. North Carolina), M. Davis (Data Pad), S. Durham (Utah State), B. Enquist (U. Arizona), M. Giffin (Utah State), J. Gittleman (U. Georgia), J. Goheen (U. Wyoming), J. Green (U. Oregon), R.T. Guy(U. Toronto), S.H.D. Haddock (Monterey Bay Aquarium), N.P. Chue Hong (Software Sustainability Institute), M. Hooten (Colorado State), K. Huff (UC Berkeley), A. Hurlbert (U. North Carolina), N. Isaac (Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, UK), S. Lyons (Smithsonian Institute), I. Mitchell (U. British Columbia), H. Morlon (Ecole Polytechnique), B. Morris (U. North Carolina), K. Ogle (Arizona State), M. Plumbley (Queen Mary Univ.), C. Price (U. Western Australia), R. Sibly (U. Reading, UK), F. Smith (U. New Mexico), J. Stegen (Pacific Northwest National Lab), S. Supp (Utah State), B. Waugh (University College London), J. Weitz (Georgia Tech), G. Wilson (Mozilla), P. Wilson (U. Wisconsin).

Advisors: J.H. Brown (U. New Mexico; PhD); J.L. Green (U. of Oregon; postdoc), B.J. Enquist (U. of Arizona; postdoc)

Advisees: E. Baldridge (Utah State; PhD), K.J. Locey (Indiana Univ; PhD), D.J. McGlinn (Utah State; postdoc), K. Riemer (Utah State; PhD), K. M. Thibault (National Ecological Observatory Network; Postdoc), X. Xiao (Utah State; PhD)