

Wade Roberts

Ph.D. Candidate
School of Biological Sciences
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Education

Washington State University, Pullman, WA | Aug 2012 – May 2017 (anticipated)
Ph.D. in Molecular Plant Sciences
Dissertation title: Evolutionary genomics of flower diversification in *Achimenes* (Gesneriaceae)
Major supervisor: Dr. Eric H. Roalson
Committee: Drs. Amit Dhingra, Joanna L. Kelley, and Andrew McCubbin

Whitworth University, Spokane, WA | Sep 2007 – May 2012
B.S. with Honors in Biology
B.A. with Honors in Art, sculpture and ceramics
Advisors: Dr. Lee Anne Chaney and Ms. Katie Creyts

Experience

Research Assistant, Roalson Lab, Washington State University | Aug 2012 – Present
PI: Dr. Eric Roalson, School of Biological Sciences

Teaching Assistant, Biology, Washington State University | Aug 2013 – Present

Undergraduate Research, Whitworth University | Sep – Dec 2011
PI: Dr. Finn Pond, Biology Department

NSF Research Experience for Undergraduates, North Carolina State University | May – Aug 2011
PI: Dr. Jenny Xiang, Department of Plant and Microbial Biology

Publications

Roalson E.H., Roberts W.R. 2016. Distinct processes drive diversification in different clades of Gesneriaceae. *Systematic Biology*. 65(4): 662-684. **Cover Image**

In Review / In Prep

Roberts W.R., Roalson E.H. Comparative transcriptome analyses during flower development in four species of *Achimenes* (Gesneriaceae). (In review at BMC Genomics)

Roberts W.R., Crabb J.L., Dhingra A., Roalson E.H. Micropropagation and genetic transformation of *Achimenes erecta* (Gesneriaceae). (In prep for Plant Cell, Tissue and Organ Culture)

Presentations

Floral diversification in Gesneriaceae: macroevolutionary and genomics approaches
WSU Molecular Plant Sciences Seminar, Pullman, WA | Oct 2016 (invited seminar)

Using comparative transcriptomics to understand flower diversification: an example from *Achimenes* (Gesneriaceae)
Inland Northwest Genomics Research Symposium, Moscow, ID | May 2016 (poster) **Best poster**
WSU SBS Graduate Student Symposium, Pullman, WA | Mar 2016 (invited talk + poster)
WSU Academic Showcase, Pullman, WA | Mar 2016 (poster)
WSU Plant Sciences Retreat, Pullman, WA | Mar 2016 (poster)

Understanding flower diversification in *Achimenes* (Gesneriaceae) using a comparative transcriptomics approach
Pan-Am Evo Devo, Berkeley, CA | Aug 2015 (poster)
Botany, Edmonton, AB | Jul 2015 (talk)

Geographic processes drive diversification in different clades of Gesneriaceae
WSU Plant Sciences Retreat, Pullman, WA | Mar 2015 (poster)
WSU SBS Graduate Student Symposium, Pullman, WA | Feb 2015 (poster)

Cloning and evolutionary analyses of *SEPALLATA3* genes from dogwoods – deciphering the genetic links to bract petaloidy
NC State Undergraduate Summer Research Symposium, Raleigh, NC | July 2011 (poster)

Selected Awards

2016 NSF Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant, Co-PI (\$19,323)
2016 Elvin McDonald Research Endowment Fund, The Gesneriad Society (\$1,750)
2012 Global Plant Sciences Initiative Fellowship, Washington State University (\$10,000)
2011 NSF REU Fellowship, North Carolina State University (\$5,000)
2007 Trustee Scholarship, Whitworth University (\$18,000 x4)

Teaching	<p>Graduate Teaching Assistant, Washington State University Aug 2013 – Present</p> <p>Biol 332 Systematic Botany (x2, rating: 4.9 / 5)</p> <p>Biol 120 Introductory Botany (x2, rating: 4.8 / 5)</p> <p>Biol 106 Introductory Biology: Organismal Biology (x5, rating: 4.7 / 5)</p> <p>Teaching Assistant / Supplemental Instructor, Whitworth University Feb 2010 – May 2012</p> <p>Bio 363 Genetics</p> <p>Bio 153 Plant Biology (x2)</p> <p>Bio 141 General Biology I: Organismal Biology</p>
Service + Outreach	<p>Faculty Representative, MPS Graduate Student Organization April 2016 – Present</p> <p>Student liaison for MPS fellows at annual faculty meetings</p> <p>Voice concerns, suggestions, comments, and grievances to faculty</p> <p>Co-Lead, Palouse Discovery Science Center Committee Nov 2014 – Present</p> <p>Organize hands-on workshops in plant science and biology for children and families</p> <p>Creation and implementation of permanent plant biology exhibit</p> <p>Exhibit Lead, Plant Science Day Apr 2016</p> <p>Organized and lead hands-on exhibits in science and plant biology for children and families</p> <p>Native Plant / Greenhouse Guide, Palouse Outdoor Science Day Oct 2015, Apr 2015, Oct 2014</p> <p>Organized and lead short hikes for children and families to identify and collect wildflowers</p> <p>Lead tours of living plant collection at Washington State University</p>
Freelance	<p>Consulting</p> <p>Joshua Brindley, Washington State University (phylogenetics, bioinformatics)</p> <p>Derek Denney, Washington State University (genomics, bioinformatics)</p>
Student Mentoring	<p>Graduates</p> <p>Joseph Kleinkopf (Fall 2016 – Present)</p> <p>Undergraduates</p> <p>Julian Bennett-Ponsford (Fall 2015 – Spring 2016)</p> <p>Becca Saunders (Spring 2016)</p>
Memberships	<p>Botanical Society of America (2012 – Present)</p> <p>The Gesneriad Society (2012 – Present)</p> <p>American Society of Plant Taxonomists (2014 – present)</p> <p>Pan-American Society for Evolutionary Developmental Biology (2015 – 2016)</p> <p>Society for the Study of Evolution (2014 – 2015)</p>
Software	<p>TACOCAT Trim And COConstruct Combined Assembly Transcriptomes</p>