

Geoffrey L. Zahn, Ph.D.

Last updated: January, 2017

<http://geoffreyzahn.com>

Biology Department
Utah Valley University
Office: SB 243c
Orem, UT, 84058-6703

zahn.geoff@gmail.com

Phone: +001-417-738-6487

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

- 2017** Assistant Professor
Utah Valley University
Department of Biology
- 2015 - 2017** Postdoctoral Research Associate
University of Hawaii at Manoa – Department of Botany
Lab of: Dr. Anthony Amend

EDUCATION

- 2015** PhD in Biology – Microbial and Molecular Ecology
University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR, USA
Dissertation: "The Functional and Distributional Ecology of Mycetozoans under Changing Edaphic and Climatic Dynamics"
Advisor: Dr. Frederick W. Spiegel
- 2010** Bachelor of Science in Biology – Ecology, Evolution and Systematics
Missouri State University, Springfield, MO, USA

RESEARCH INTERESTS:

Microbial community responses/feedbacks to climate change
Linking local microbial and molecular dynamics to global biogeochemical cycles
Plant-Microbe interactions
The ecology and ecosystem services of protists and fungi
Factors that shape microbial community formation and function

PUBLICATIONS

Wainwright BJ, **Zahn GL**, Spalding HL, Sherwood AR, Smith CM, Amend AS. 2017. Fungi associated with mesophotic macroalgae from the 'Au'au Channel, west Maui are differentiated by host and overlap terrestrial communities. *PeerJ* 5: e3532.

Geoffrey Zahn, Rota Wagai, Seiichiro Yonemura. 2016. The effects of amoebal bacterivory on carbon and nitrogen dynamics depend on temperature and soil structure interactions. *Soil Biology and Biochemistry*, 94: 133-137. DOI: 10.1016/j.soilbio.2015.11.021

Geoffrey Zahn, Steven L. Stephenson, Frederick W. Spiegel. 2014. Ecological distribution of protosteloid amoebae in New Zealand. *PeerJ* 2:e296; DOI 10.7717/peerj.296

Miriam De Haan, Christine Cocquyt, Alex Tice, **Geoffrey Zahn**, Frederick W. Spiegel. 2014. First records of Protosteloid Amoebae (Eumycetozoa) from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. *Plant Ecology and Evolution*, 147:1, 85-92

Erin R. Murphy, Jacob Boxberger, Robert Colvin, Suk Je Lee, **Geoffrey Zahn**, Fred Loor, Kyoungtae Kim. 2011. Pii1, an eisosome organizer, plays an important role in the recruitment of synaptojanins and amphiphysins to facilitate receptor-mediated endocytosis in yeast. *European Journal of Cell Biology*, 90:10, 825-833

In review **Geoffrey Zahn**, Anthony Amend. Total foliar microbiome transplants confer disease resistance and survival to a critically-endangered Hawaiian endemic. In review, January, 2017.

Geoffrey Zahn, John Shadwick, Fred Spiegel. Protosteloid amoebae as a flagship group for investigating the global distribution of naked amoebae. In review, January 2016.

In preparation **Geoffrey Zahn**, Anthony Amend, Patrick Sheridan, Erin Datlof, Nicole Hynson. A decade of air samples from Mauna Loa Observatory reveal widespread global dispersal patterns in major fungal lineages. In preparation, January 2017.

TECHNICAL REPORTS

Geoffrey Zahn, Anthony Amend. 2017. Role of fungal endophytes and epiphytes in endangered species conservation. O'ahu Army Natural Resources Program Year-End Report ([PDF LINK](#))

Geoffrey Zahn, Anthony Amend. 2016. Molecular assessment of wild *Achatinella mustelina* diet. O'ahu Army Natural Resources Program Year-End Report ([PDF LINK](#))

Geoffrey Zahn, Anthony Amend. 2015. Molecular assessment of wild *Achatinella mustelina* diet. O'ahu Army Natural Resources Program Year-End Report ([PDF LINK](#))

CODE CONTRIBUTIONS AND TUTORIALS

<https://github.com/gzahn/tools>

<http://geoffreyzahn.com/blog-archive>

PRESENTATIONS

Invited Seminars:

- 2015** *"Effects of belowground trophic complexity on carbon cycling under changing climatic and edaphic conditions"*
Joint Genome Institute, Walnut Creek, CA, USA
- 2015** *"The functional and distributional ecology of mycetozoans under changing edaphic and climatic dynamics"*
Climate Impact Research Center, Abisko, Sweden
- 2014** *"Public science literacy and targeted environmental initiatives"* NWA Environmental Programs Symposium
- 2014** *"The functional and distributional ecology of slime molds in a changing climate"* NIAES, Tsukuba, Japan
- 2013** *"The Ecology of Soil Mycetozoa"* Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology, Yokosuka, Japan
- 2012** *"The Mycetozoans"* Organization for Tropical Studies, Las Cruces, Costa Rica

Posters and Talks:

- 2016** "Fungal endophytes and pathogens in endangered hawaiian endemics: Plant conservation from a microbial perspective" Mycological Society of America, Berkeley, CA, USA
- 2014** *"Amoebae in warming soils: interactive effects of the microbial food web and environmental factors on nutrient cycling in a changing climate"* A2C Research Symposium, Fayetteville, AR, USA
- 2014** *"The interactive effects of protozoan predation pressure and environmental factors on carbon and nitrogen cycling in soils under warming conditions"* International Society for Microbial Ecology; Seoul, South Korea
- 2014** *"Application of high-throughput sequencing may explain carbon dynamics under predation and warming gradients via soil community shifts"* JSPS Multidisciplinary Science Forum 4; Washington, D.C., USA
- 2014** *"Using metagenomics and metatranscriptomics to uncover mechanisms of soil communities' effects on carbon cycling under warming conditions"* DOE Joint Genome Institute – Microbial Genomics and Metagenomics Workshop; Walnut Creek, CA, USA
- 2013** *"The Role of Soil Amoebae in Nutrient Cycling on a Warming Planet"* Graduate University for Advanced Studies; Sokendai, Japan
- 2011** *"The Protosteloid Amoebae of New Zealand"* Mycological Society of America; Fairbanks, AK, USA
- 2010** *"Pil1's Role on Regulating Membrane PIP2 Level"* INBRE Conference; Fayetteville, AR, USA

- 2010** "The Effects of Prescribed Fire on Overwintering Fungal Abundance and Diversity: A Baseline Study" CNAS Undergraduate Research Symposium; Springfield, MO, USA
- 2009** "Endocytic Roles of Pil1, the Main Organizer of Eisosomes" Arkansas INBRE Research Conference; Fayetteville, AR, USA

AWARDS AND FUNDING

- 2016** Mycological Society of America - Translational Mycology Award (\$2,500)
"Plant conservation from a microbial perspective"
- 2015** Oahu Army Natural Resources Program Rare Plant Management (\$40,500)
Co-Investigator and Writer - "Restoration of critically endangered Hawaiian native plants by understanding and manipulating foliar microbial symbionts"
- 2014** Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) Alumnus Travel Award (\$750)
- 2014** Dept. of Energy Joint Genome Institute IMG Workshop Travel Award (\$425)
- 2013** JSPS Summer Research Fellowship (JSPS-SP01363) (\$12,500)
Co-P.I. - "The Importance of Microbial Interactions to Soil Carbon Cycling on a Warming Planet"
- 2013** NSF EAPSI Grant (OISE-1308856) (\$5,070)
P.I. - "The Importance of Microbial Interactions to Soil Carbon Cycling on a Warming Planet"
- 2013** *Clean Air – Cool Planet* Climate Fellowship (\$5,000)
- 2011** Mycological Society of America Travel Award (\$350)
- 2011** NSF GK-12 Fellowship (\$30,500)
"Inquiry and Innovative Thinking by Design"

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- 2015 -- 2016** Endangered species conservation – Collaboration with US Army Environmental Division and the 'Oahu Natural Resources Program, Hawaii
- 2014 – 2015** Course Development – Online Biology Lab
University of Arkansas
- 2013** International Research – Soil Physiology and Ecology
May – Aug. National Institute for Agro-Environmental Sciences, Tsukuba, Japan
- 2013 – 2016** IUCN Species Survival Commission – Myxomycete group
- 2012** Field Research – Tropical Lichen Ecology
Jul. – Aug. Organization for Tropical Studies, Costa Rica
- 2011 – 2012** National Science Foundation GK-12 Teaching Fellow
Jun. – May University of Arkansas; Owl Creek Middle School, Fayetteville, AR
- 2010** Undergraduate Research Assistant – Forest Fire Ecology
Jan. – Dec. Missouri State University Dept. of Biology
- 2009** Undergraduate Research Assistant – Yeast Genetics
Jan. – Dec. Missouri State University Dept. of Biology

MENTORING AND TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Mentorship
Undergraduate student mentor (7 students)
Graduate Student Mentor (4 Masters, 3 PhD)
- Courses
Online Biology Lab (Non-majors) - Developed Course / Instructor of Record
Principles of Biology (Honors Undergraduate) - Teaching Assistant

Comparative Botany (Graduate level) - Teaching Assistant
Mycology (Graduate level) - Teaching Assistant
Experimental Design (Undergraduate) - Instructor
6th Grade Science and Math (NSF GK-12 Teaching Fellow)

ACADEMIC AND OTHER SOCIETIES (Active participant)

International Society for Microbial Ecology
Mycological Society of America
International Society for Fungal Conservation
Japan Society for the Promotion of Science Alumni Association
International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) – Species Survival Group (Myxomycetes)

SYNERGISTIC ACTIVITIES

2016	Research spotlight at 2016 IUCN Congress - "Using fungi to save endangered plants"
2016	Hawaii GENE-ious K-12 Curriculum Development
2014	Ten Thousand Microscopes Beta Tester – K-12 Content Generator
2011 – 2015	Judge – NWA Regional Science Fair
2008 – 2009	James River Basin Partnership Science Committee, Springfield, MO
2007	Research Technician - Missouri State University Greenhouse
2006	Volunteer Ecologist - Reserva Bosque Nuboso Santa Elena, Costa Rica