

# Jenna T. B. Ekwealor

## CURRICULUM VITAE

Office of the Chief Information Officer, Smithsonian Institution, 380 Herndon Parkway, Herndon, VA 20170, USA

219-393-0179 | [ekwealorj@si.edu](mailto:ekwealorj@si.edu)

[www.jennaekwealor.com](http://www.jennaekwealor.com)

---

## EDUCATION

- 2020      **Ph.D. in Integrative Biology**  
Department of Integrative Biology  
University of California, Berkeley (UCB)  
Advisor: Dr. Brent D. Mishler  
Dissertation: *Tolerance of desiccation and UV radiation in mosses of the genus Syntrichia (Pottiaceae), from genomes to ecology*
- 2020      **Certificate of Remote Instruction**  
UCB  
Graduate Student Instructor Teaching & Resource Center
- 2015      **M.S. in Environmental Science, Biology Option**  
California State University, Los Angeles (CSULA)  
Advisor: Dr. Kirsten M. Fisher  
Thesis: *Sex or survival? The genetic impacts of environment and energetic trade-offs for the Mojave Desert moss Syntrichia caninervis (Pottiaceae)*
- 2012      **B.S. in Biology, Minor in Chemistry**  
Purdue University, Indiana University—Purdue University—Indianapolis (IUPUI)
- 2012      **B.A. in Religious Studies**  
Indiana University, IUPUI

---

## PUBLICATIONS [ORCID 0000-0001-9014-8786]

7. Mishler, Brent D.; **Ekwealor, Jenna T. B.**; Nosratinia, Sonia; Dautermann, Oliver; Brinda, John; Jauregui Lazo, Javier; Ebrahimi, Sotodeh; Caswell-Levy, Caleb; Guill, Kate; Oliver, Melvin. A global phylogeny and classification of the dryland moss genus *Syntrichia*. (In prep.).
6. **Ekwealor, Jenna T. B.**; Clark, Theresa A.; Dautermann, Oliver; Russell, Alexander; Ebrahimi, Sotodeh; Stark, Lloyd R.; Niyogi, Krishna K.; Mishler, Brent D. Natural ultraviolet radiation exposure alters photosynthetic biology and improves recovery from desiccation in a desert moss. *Journal of Experimental Botany* (2021), DOI: 10.1093/jxb/erab051.
5. Silva, Anderson T.; Gao, Bei; Fisher, Kirsten M.; Mishler, Brent D.; **Ekwealor, Jenna T. B.**; Stark, Lloyd R.; Li, Xiaoshuang; Zhang, Daoyuan; Bowker, Matthew A.; Brinda, John C.; Deane-Coe, Kirsten K.; Oliver, Melvin J. To dry perchance to live: insights from the genome of the desiccation-tolerant biocrust moss *Syntrichia caninervis*. *The Plant Journal* (In Press) , DOI: 10.1111/tpj.15116.
4. **Ekwealor, Jenna T. B.**; Fisher, Kirsten M. Life under quartz: Hypolithic mosses in the Mojave Desert. *PLOS ONE* 15(7): e0235928 (2020), DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0235928.

\*Please note name change as of 2018 from Jenna T. Baughman to Jenna T. B. Ekwealor

3. **Baughman, Jenna T.**; Payton, Adam C.; Paasch, Amber E.; Fisher, Kirsten M.; McDaniel, Stuart F. Multiple factors influence population sex ratios in the Mojave Desert moss *Syntrichia caninervis*. *American Journal of Botany* 104(5):1-10 (2017), DOI: 10.3732/ajb.1700045.
2. Meijome, Tomás E.\*; **Baughman, Jenna T.\***; Hooker, R. Adam; Cheng, Ying-Hua; Ciovacco, Wendy A.; Balamohan, Sanjeev A.; Srinivasan, Trishya L.; Chitteti, Brahmananda R.; Eleniste, Pierre P.; Horowitz, Mark C.; Srouf, Edward F.; Bruzzaniti, Angela; Fuchs, Robyn K.; Kacena, Melissa A. C-Mpl is expressed on osteoblasts and osteoclasts and is important in regulating skeletal homeostasis. *Journal of Cellular Biochemistry* 117:959-969 (2016), DOI: 10.1002/jcb.25380. \*Contributed equally
1. Eleniste, Pierre P.; Patel, Vruti; Posritong, Sumana; Zero, Odette; Largura, Heather; Cheng, Ying-Hua; Himes, Evan R.; Hamilton, Matthew; **Baughman, Jenna**; Kacena, Melissa A.; Bruzzaniti, Angela. Pyk2 and megakaryocytes regulate osteoblast differentiation and migration via distinct and overlapping mechanisms. *Journal of Cellular Biochemistry* 9999:1-11 (2015), DOI: 10.1002/jcb.25430.

---

## FELLOWSHIPS & TRAINEESHIPS

2020	Graduate Remote Instruction Innovation Fellowship (UCB) (\$5,000)
2015-2020	Berkeley Fellowship (UCB) (\$86,000 awarded over five years)
2017-2020	Pinto-Fialon Fellowship (UCB) (\$25,735 awarded over three years)
2018-2019	Luso-American Education Foundation Scholarship (\$1,000)
2015-2017	Environment & Society: Data Sciences for the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century, An NSF Research Traineeship (UCB)
2014-2015	Minority Biomedical Research Support Research Initiative for Scientific Enhancement MS-to-Ph.D. Graduate Research Fellowship (CSULA) (\$17,000)
2009-2012	Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Scholar (IUPUI)

---

## HONORS & AWARDS

2016	Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor, UCB
2013	Tutor of the Month, Tutor Doctor of San Gabriel Valley
2012	Rowland A. Sherrill Outstanding Religious Studies Student Award, IUPUI
2012	Christine Jakacky Mentor of the Year, IUPUI
2012	13 <sup>th</sup> Annual IUPUI Top 100 Outstanding Students, IUPUI
2011	12 <sup>th</sup> Annual IUPUI Top 100 Outstanding Students, IUPUI

---

## RESEARCH GRANTS

**Contributions to ongoing funded research**

2016-2020 NSF Division of Environmental Biology #163856  
 Title: Collaborative Research: Dimensions: Desiccation and Diversity in Dryland Mosses  
 PI: Brent Mishler, UCB

**Previous**

2020 Myrtle Wolf Grant (California Native Plant Society – East Bay Chapter) (\$1,400)  
 2020 Department of Integrative Biology Dissertation Award (UCB) (\$2,500)  
 2020 Paul Silva Student Research Grant (California Botanical Society) (\$580)  
 2019 Department of Integrative Biology Summer Grant (UCB) (\$3,500)  
 2019 California Native Plant Society – Bryophyte Chapter Research Grant (\$200)  
 2019 Sigma Xi Berkeley Chapter Grants-in-Aid-of-Research (UCB) (\$200)  
 2018 Mathias Graduate Student Research Grant (UC Natural Reserve System) (\$2,000)  
 2018 Department of Integrative Biology Summer Research Award (UCB) (\$1,750)  
 2017 Anderson & Crum Field Bryology Award (American Bryological and Lichenological Society) (\$750)  
 2017 Department of Integrative Biology Summer Research Award (UCB) (\$1,750)  
 2016-2019 Department of Integrative Biology Graduate Student Research Allocations Committee Research Award (UCB) (\$1,200 over four years)  
 2014 Evo-Devo-Eco Research Exchange Network Grant (NSF Research Coordination Network) (\$3,000)

---

 CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS
**Oral Presentations**

2020 Botany 2020, Virtual  
 “The effects of natural sunlight and UV radiation on photosynthesis in the Mojave Desert moss *Syntrichia caninervis*”

2019 Biocrust4, North Stradbroke Island, Australia  
 “UV tolerance in Mojave Desert mosses”

2019 Botany 2019, Tucson, AZ, USA  
 “UV tolerance in Mojave Desert mosses”  
*Honorable Mention for A. J. Sharp Award*  
*ABLS Student Travel Award (\$400)*

2019 Bryology 2019, Madrid, Spain  
 “UV tolerance in Mojave Desert mosses”  
*UCB Dept. of Integrative Biology Graduate Student Research Allocations Committee Travel Award (\$250)*

2018 American Bryological and Lichenological Society Meeting, Nederland, CO, USA  
 “UV tolerance in Mojave Desert mosses”  
*ABLS Student Travel Award (\$600)*

2017 California Botanical Society Graduate Symposium, Santa Barbara, CA, USA  
 “Adaptation, facilitation, and refugia in Mojave Desert mosses”  
*California Botanical Society Travel Award (\$200)*

- 2016 Biocrust3, Moab, UT, USA  
Molecular Frontiers Symposium  
“Males of the Mojave Desert moss *Syntrichia caninervis* (Pottiaceae) are rare and shy”  
*Biocrust3 Complimentary Registration Award*
- 2016 Biocrust3, Moab, UT, USA  
Early Career Scientists Symposium  
“Natural desert terraria: Characterization of hypolithic Mojave Desert moss community”  
*Biocrust3 Complimentary Registration Award*
- 2016 Botany 2016, Savannah, GA, USA  
“Natural desert terraria: Characterization of hypolithic Mojave Desert moss community”  
*ABLS Student Travel Award (\$600)*
- 2016 Botany 2016, Savannah, GA, USA  
“Males of the Mojave Desert moss *Syntrichia caninervis* (Pottiaceae) are rare and shy”  
*UCB Dept. of Integrative Biology Graduate Student Research Allocations Committee Travel Award (\$250)*
- 2015 California Botanical Society Graduate Symposium, Claremont, CA, USA  
“Natural desert terraria: Characterization of hypolithic Mojave Desert moss community”  
*Best Presentation Award, Completed Research Category*

**Poster Presentations**

- 2018 International Molecular Moss Science Society Meeting, St. Petersburg, FL, USA  
“UV Tolerance in Mojave Desert Soil Mosses”  
*Best Student Poster Award*  
*iMOSS Trainee Fellowship Award*
- 2015 California Native Plant Society Conservation Conference, San Jose, CA, USA  
“Natural desert terraria: Characterization of hypolithic Mojave Desert moss community”  
*Best Student Poster Award*

---

**DEPARTMENTAL TALKS**

- 2020 Botany Lunch, University & Jepson Herbaria, UCB  
“The photosynthetic effects of the Mojave Desert sun on a biological soil crust moss”
- 2019 Guest Lecture, Ecosystems of California, UCB  
“Evolution of Energetic Trade-Offs in Plant Herbivory Defense”
- 2019 Guest Lecture, Plant Systematics, UCB  
“Introduction to Bryophytes”
- 2018 Grad Students on Parade Lightning Talk, Botany Lunch, University & Jepson Herbaria, UCB  
“Volunteer botanizing in the Mojave National Preserve”
- 2016 Botany Lunch, University & Jepson Herbaria, UCB

“Sex and survival: The impacts of energetic trade-offs for the Mojave Desert moss *Syntrichia caninervis* (Pottiaceae)”

2015

MORE & LSAMP Seminar, CSULA

“Sex and survival: The impacts of energetic trade-offs for the Mojave Desert moss *Syntrichia caninervis* (Pottiaceae)”

---

## TEACHING

### Teaching Appointments

Fall 2020 Part-time Faculty, Merritt College, Peralta Community College District

2019-2020 Graduate Student Instructor, UCB

2015-2016 Graduate Student Instructor, UCB

2014-2015 Teaching Assistant, CSULA

2009-2012 Undergraduate Student Instructor, IUPUI

2008-2012 Recitation Leader, IUPUI

### Undergraduate Courses

Natural History of the Bay Area: Bryophytes, (Remote Field Course), Merritt College 2020

California Natural History (Remote Field Course), UCB 2020

Integrative Human Biology, UCB 2020

Thriving in Academia, UCB 2020

Introduction to California Plant Life (Field Course), UCB 2020

Ecosystems of California (Field Course), UCB 2019

Introductory Biology Laboratory, UCB 2015, 2016

Ecology Laboratory, CSULA 2014, 2015

Plant Biology Laboratory for Non-Majors, CSULA 2014

Peer-Led Team Learning Methods in Teaching Chemistry, IUPUI 2009-2012

General Chemistry I Peer-Led Team Learning Recitation, IUPUI 2008-2012

Concepts of Biology II Recitation, IUPUI 2009

### Workshops

Wonders of a dryland moss: *Syntrichia* from genomes to ecosystems, University & Jepson Herbaria 2021

Biological Sciences Discipline Workshop, Teaching Conference for First-Time GSIs, UCB 2020

Biocrusts: The Living Skin of the Earth, Expanding Your Horizons Girls' Conference, UCB 2019

Introduction to R, Git, Shell, and Reproducible Analysis in R, Software Carpentry, UCB 2019

Biological Sciences Discipline Workshop, Teaching Conference for First-Time GSIs, UCB 2018

Introduction to Shell, Git, and R, Data Carpentry, UCB 2018

Introduction to Genomics Data Wrangling, Data Carpentry UCB 2018

---

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2015-2020

### Graduate Student Researcher

Department of Integrative Biology

University of California, Berkeley

Laboratory of Dr. Brent Mishler

*Eco-physiology of UV tolerance & systematics in dryland mosses*

- 2018-2019      **Graduate Student Researcher**  
 Department of Integrative Biology  
 University of California, Berkeley  
 Laboratory of Dr. Brent Mishler  
*The 3DMoss Project: Desiccation and Diversity in Dryland Mosses*
- 2016      **Graduate Student Researcher**  
 Department of Geography  
 University of California, Berkeley  
 Laboratory of Dr. Laurel Larsen  
*Analysis of landscape features from RASCAL, a model of Florida everglades landscape evolution*
- 2013-2015      **Graduate Student Researcher**  
 Department of Integrative Biology  
 University of California, Berkeley  
 Laboratory of Dr. Kirsten Fisher  
*Sex or survival? The genetic impacts of environment and energetic trade-offs for the Mojave Desert moss *Syntrichia caninervis* (Pottiaceae)*
- 2009-2012      **Life Health Sciences Internship**  
 Orthopaedic Laboratories  
 Indiana University School of Medicine  
 Laboratory of Dr. Melissa Kacena  
*Characterization of C-Mpl and Pyk2 in skeletal growth and development and in bone-blood interactions*
- 2011      **Multidisciplinary Undergraduate Research Institute**  
 Departments of Earth Sciences & Department of Anthropology  
 Indiana University—Purdue University—Indianapolis  
 Laboratories of Dr. Gabriel Filippelli & Dr. Jeremy J. Wilson  
*Analysis of the ratio of carbon to nitrogen from soil cores in a Mississippian era Native American civilization site as a marker for landscape use change*

## SERVICE

### I. Community

- Peer reviewer: *Plant and Soil*, *American Journal of Botany*, *Annals of Botany*, *Plant Biology*, and *The Bryologist*.
- Social Media Chair: California Native Plant Society, Bryophyte Chapter, 2018-2020
- Student/Post-doc Representative: International Molecular Moss Science Society, 2018-present

### II. University

- Curriculum Faculty Committee, Department of Integrative Biology, UCB, 2018-2020
- Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Faculty Committee, Department of Integrative Biology, UCB, 2018-2020
- Graduate Student Orientation Committee, Department of Integrative Biology, UCB, 2018-2019
- Women in Science at Cal, Student Organization Planning Committee, UCB, 2016-2019

## MENTORSHIP

**Undergraduate Students**

Dean Berkowitz, Mishler Lab, UCB	2018-2020
Jordan Jomsky, Mishler Lab, UCB	2018-2020
Shloka Reddy, Mishler Lab, UCB	2018
Heloise Carion, Mishler Lab, UCB	2017-2018
Easha Sagar, Mishler Lab, UCB	2017-2018
Brittanie Rodriguez, Fisher Lab, CSULA	2015
Katelyn Millette, Fisher Lab, CSULA	2014

**High School Students**

José Adame Medina, Mishler Lab, Berkeley High School	2019
Angela Sacramento, Mishler Lab, Oakland Technical High School	2018

---

**OUTREACH****I. Media & Print**

<i>Smithsonian Magazine</i> , article <a href="#">here</a>	August 2020
<i>The Guardian</i> , article <a href="#">here</a>	August 2020
<i>The New York Times: Trilobites</i> , article <a href="#">here</a>	July 2020
<i>Berkeley News: Research Science &amp; Environment</i> , article <a href="#">here</a>	July 2020
<i>Cal BioSciences Annual Newsletter</i> , article <a href="#">here</a>	January 2019

**II. Activities & Presentations**

“10 Coolest Bryophyte Facts” presentation, Bronx Arena High School	October 2020
Networking Guest, Success Suits You! Biotech Partners, Berkeley High School	January 2020
Bay Area Science Festival: Celebrating Nature, University & Jepson Herbaria	November 2019
Supervisory Scientist, Mission Mojave, Blueprint Earth	January 2019
Cal Day, Bryophyte Station, University & Jepson Herbaria, UCB	January 2019
Interview Day, Panel Member, “Life as an IB Graduate Student,” UCB	2016, 2017, 2018
Cal Day, Bryophyte Station, University & Jepson Herbaria, UCB	January 2018
Cal Day, Bryophytes & Ferns Station, University & Jepson Herbaria, UCB	2016
“Be a Scientist” Mentor, Community Resources for Science	2016
Logistics Volunteer, Expanding Your Horizons Conference	2016
Field Researcher, Mission Mojave, Blueprint Earth	2014, 2015
Naturalist, Marine Mammals, Indianapolis Zoo	January 2012
Youth Mentor “Big Sister,” Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Indiana	2010-2011

---

**PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES**

California Native Plant Society, International Molecular Moss Society (iMOSS), American Bryological and Lichenological Society, Botanical Society of America, California Botanical Society

---

**CODE**

[www.github.com/jenna-tb-ekwealor](https://www.github.com/jenna-tb-ekwealor)

---

**SKILLS**

Proficiency in R, Bash, Matlab, Git, & HTML. Additional experience programming in Python, Perl, & Java. Proficiency in bryophyte microscopy (dissection, sectioning, and creating permanent slides).

---

**LANGUAGES**

English (native), Spanish (limited working proficiency), Portuguese (limited working proficiency)