


# Thomas A. Lake

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PhD Candidate, University of Minnesota  
Department of Plant & Microbial Biology  
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## Education

**PhD Candidate, Plant & Microbial Biology** 2018-present  
University of Minnesota Twin Cities, Minneapolis, MN  
Research focus: Improving predictive models of range expansion in invasive species  
Advisor: Dr. David Moeller

**BS, Conservation Biology** 2013-2017  
Minor Geographic Information Sciences  
University of Minnesota Twin Cities, Minneapolis, MN

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## Research & Teaching

**Graduate Research Assistant**, University of Minnesota (PI: D. Moeller) 2021-present

**Teaching Assistant**, “Plant, Algal, and Fungal Diversity and Adaptation” 2019 - 2020  
University of Minnesota (PI: D. Moeller)

**Teaching Assistant**, “Foundations of Biology”, University of Minnesota (PI: C. Kirkpatrick) 2019

**Researcher 1**, USDA ARS Cereal Disease Lab, St. Paul, MN (PI: J. Kolmer) 2017-2018

**Teaching Assistant**, “Plant Immunity Gene Discovery”, University of Minnesota (PI: F. Katagiri) 2017

**Undergraduate Research Assistant**, University of Minnesota (PI: D. Moeller) 2016-2017

**Undergraduate Research Assistant**, University of Minnesota (PI: C. Chen) 2015-2016

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## Grants, Fellowships, & Awards

**Doctoral Dissertation Research Fellowship**, University of Minnesota Graduate School 2022-2023  
\$35,000. “Predicting biological invasions using remote sensing and artificial intelligence”  
Competitive internal fellowship, stipend, and tuition for “most accomplished PhD candidates”.

**Climate Innovation Challenge**, Google 2022-2023  
“Remote sensing biological invasions using high resolution imagery and deep learning”  
\$13,500 equivalent in Google Cloud research credits.

**Hatch Grant**, USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (PI: D. Moeller) 2021-2023  
“Remote sensing biological invasions: Using satellite imagery to detect and monitor  
\$65,000.”Remote sensing biological invasions: Using satellite imagery to detect and monitor  
leafy spurge population dynamics across the Northern Great Plains”  
Contributed to grant writing and submission, awarded \$65,000 for research.

**Bill Dahl Graduate Student Research Award**, Botanical Society of America 2020-2021  
\$1,500. “Does adaptation facilitate or impede future plant invasions”  
Award to support PhD field research in adaptation and climate change study.

**Bell Museum Dayton Natural History Award**, University of Minnesota 2020-2021  
\$2,500. “Does adaptive genetic differentiation facilitate or impede future plant invasions”  
Award supporting PhD field research and conference travel.

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| <b>Earth Observation Grant</b> , European Space Agency<br>"Population monitoring of invasive species using satellite imagery"<br>\$12,000 equivalent in access to high resolution satellite imagery. | 2020-2021 |
| <b>Accelerated Data Science Grant</b> , NVIDIA<br>\$1,000. Gifted graphics processing unit (GPU) to accelerate deep learning model development.  | 2019-2020 |
| <b>Grants-in-Aid</b> , University of Minnesota<br>\$2,000 total. Four small internal grants supporting field research and travel.  | 2019-2022 |
| <b>Conference Travel Awards</b> , University of Minnesota<br>\$3,000 total. Three awards for domestic and international conference travel.   | 2018-2022 |
| <b>Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program</b> , University of Minnesota<br>\$3,600. Pilot award for independent research in plant breeding and cytogenetics.                                     | 2016-2017 |

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## Publications & Presentations

### Refereed Publications

4. **Lake, T. A.**, Briscoe Runquist, R. D., & Moeller, D. A. (2022). Deep learning detects invasive plant species across complex landscapes using Worldview-2 and Planetscope satellite imagery. *Remote Sensing in Ecology and Conservation*, 8(6), 875-889. <https://doi.org/10.1002/rse2.288>
3. Briscoe Runquist, R. D., **Lake, T. A.**, & Moeller, D. A. (2021). Improving predictions of range expansion for invasive species using joint species distribution models and surrogate co-occurring species. *Journal of Biogeography*, 48(7), 1693-1705. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jbi.14105>
2. **Lake, T. A.**, Runquist, R. D. B., & Moeller, D. A. (2020). Predicting range expansion of invasive species: Pitfalls and best practices for obtaining biologically realistic projections. *Diversity and Distributions*, 26(12), 1767-1779. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ddi.13161>
1. Briscoe Runquist, R. D., **Lake, T. A.**, Tiffin, P., & Moeller, D. A. (2019). Species distribution models throughout the invasion history of Palmer amaranth predict regions at risk of future invasion and reveal challenges with modeling rapidly shifting geographic ranges. *Scientific Reports*, 9(1), 1-12. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-018-38054-9>

### Non-refereed Articles

1. Briscoe Runquist, R. D., **Lake, T. A.**, & Moeller, D. A. (2019). MITPPC Practical Guide to Species Distribution Modeling in R. Minnesota Invasive Terrestrial Plants and Pests Center.

### Manuscripts in Prep

2. **Lake, T. A.**, Runquist, R. D. B., Flagel, L. E., & Moeller, D. A. (in-prep). Chronosequence of invasion reveals minimal losses of genomic diversity, niche expansion, and trait divergence in the polyploid, leafy spurge.
1. **Lake, T. A.**, Runquist, R. D. B., & Moeller, D. A. (in-prep). Inference of invasive species population dynamics with time series satellite imagery.

### Selected Presentations

7. **Lake, T. A.** Temporal Convolutional Neural Networks for Satellite Image Time Series Classification. Presentation. American Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing Student Chapter. University of Minnesota. 11/2022.
6. **Lake, T. A.**, Briscoe Runquist, R. D., & Moeller, D. A. Detecting invasive plant species across complex landscapes using satellite imagery and deep learning. Presentation. Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference, Green Bay, Wisconsin. 10/2022.
5. Briscoe Runquist, R. D., **Lake, T. A.**, & Moeller, D. A. Landscape genetics of Common Tansy reveals important spatial differentiation. Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference, Green Bay, Wisconsin. 10/2022.
4. **Lake, T. A.**, Briscoe Runquist, R. D., & Moeller, D. A. Deep learning detects invasive plant species across complex landscapes using Worldview-2 and Planetscope satellite imagery. Presentation. Joint Annual Meeting of

the Ecological Society of America (ESA) and Canadian Society for Ecology & Evolution (CSEE), Montreal, Canada. 8/2022.

3. **Lake, T. A.** Remotely sensed image segmentation approaches in ArcGIS. Presentation. American Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing Student Chapter. University of Minnesota. 11/2021.

2. **Lake, T. A.** Ecology and Impacts of Invasive Species. Invited Lecturer. Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior. University of Minnesota. 10/2019.

1. Briscoe Runquist, R. D., **Lake, T. A.**, & Moeller, D. A. Species distribution models throughout the invasion history of Palmer amaranth predict regions at risk of future invasion and reveal challenges with modeling rapidly shifting geographic ranges. Presentation. Joint Summit of the Minnesota Terrestrial Invasive Plants and Pests Center and Minnesota Department of Agriculture. 02/2019.

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## Service & Outreach

### Undergraduate Student Mentorship

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| Lindsey Howell, CFANS Mentor Program, University of Minnesota                | 2022 |
| Joan Barreto Ortiz, CBS Field Guides Mentor Program, University of Minnesota | 2022 |
| Alina Smolskaya, CFANS Mentor Program, University of Minnesota               | 2021 |
| Jessica Zhang, CFANS Mentor Program, University of Minnesota                 | 2020 |
| Nolan Kerr, CFANS Mentor Program, University of Minnesota                    | 2019 |
| Christina Berg, CFANS Mentor Program, University of Minnesota                | 2018 |

### Broader Community

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| American Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing Student Chapter, Coordinator | 2020-present |
| University of Minnesota CFANS Mentor Program Matching Committee                    | 2022-present |
| Community Scientist, iNaturalist Contributor                                       | 2018-present |
| Minnesota Student's Cooperative, Coordinator                                       | 2018-present |

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## References

David Moeller  
Professor  
Plant and Microbial Biology  
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Lex Flagel  
Senior Data Scientist  
Gencove  
Adjunct Professor  
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Rob Venette  
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Director, Minnesota Invasive Terrestrial Plants and Pest Center  
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