



Megan Barkdull

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Education

Ph.D Candidate, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

ADVISOR: DR. CORRIE MOREAU

Cornell University

August 2019–May 2025

Bachelor of Arts in Biology

ADVISOR: DR. EMILY HEFFERNAN

New College of Florida

August 2014–May 2018

- Honors Thesis: Population Genetics of the Threatened Florida Duskywing Skipper

Publications

Published:

- Williams, K.M., **Barkdull, M.**, Fahmy, M., Hekkala, E., Siddall, M.E., Kvist, S. Caught red handed: iDNA points to wild source for CITES-protected contraband leeches. *Eur J Wildl Res* 66, 80 (2020). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10344-020-01419-5>
- Siddall, M. E., **Barkdull, M.**, Tessler, M., Brugler, M. R., Borda, E., & Hekkala, E. (2019). Ideating iDNA: Lessons and limitations from leeches in legacy collections. *PloS one*, 14(2), e0212226.

Talks

Dagger (†) indicates presenter.

Oral Presentations:

- **Barkdull, M.†**, Williams, K.M., Tessler, M., Siddall, M.E. (2019). What's in a leech? A diversity of potential for leech-derived iDNA. Cornell Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Winter Symposium, Ithaca, NY.
- **Barkdull, M.†**, Tessler, M., and Siddall, M.E. (2017). What's in a leech? A haemadispid by any other name would reveal as much. AMNH REU Summer Symposium, Manhattan, NY.

Lightning talks:

- **Barkdull, M.†** and Moreau, C. (2020). Formicidae caste determination: single cell and functional genomic techniques. Social Insects in the Northeast Region meeting, Brooklyn, NY. **Postponed due to COVID19.

Posters:

- E.V Heffernan†, **M. Barkdull**, and A. Markee (2019). The role of gene flow in connecting populations of endangered skipper butterflies in the United States: using genetic data to inform management strategies. International Symposium on Molecular Insect Science, Barcelona, Spain.
- Markee, A.N†, Saarinen, E. V., **Barkdull, M.** (2019). Conservation genetics of the Florida duskywing skipper (*Ephyriades brunnea*): a multi-population assessment of a rare South Florida butterfly. Entomological Society of America meeting, St. Louis, MO.
- Ash, M†, **Barkdull, M.†**, Elmir, G.† (2017). Are endangered Dakota Skipper populations infected with Wolbachia? Imperiled Butterflies Working Group meeting, Miami, FL.

Grants, Fellowships & Awards

Grants (Total amount: \$3,000)

- Richard G. Harrison Fund, Cornell University (\$3,000)

Fellowships (Total amount: \$233,655)

- National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship (\$138,000)
- Cornell Fellowship (\$33,241)
- National Merit Scholar (\$62,414)

Awards

- Book Award for Best First-Year Symposium Presentation (\$50)

Research Experiences

Post-baccalaureate Intern

ZAMUDIO LAB

- Conducted conservation genetics research on a number of reptile and amphibian species.
- Responsible for assisting all lab members with wet lab work (DNA extractions, microsatellite sequencing, Sanger sequencing, MiSeq).
- Collaborated with Dr. Fábio de Sá to describe the genetic mating system of the Brazilian frog *Cycloramphus boraceiensis* (data in prep for publication).

Cornell University

September 2018–August 2019

Hawkmoth Sensory Behavior Volunteer

RAGUSO LAB

- Participated in weekly hawkmoth colony care tasks (feeding, plant care, pupae counts etc.).
- Ran experiments testing the role of floral humidity in hawkmoth feeding choice.

Cornell University

September 2018–December 2018

Birdsong Evolution, Research Assistant

DRS. ARAYA-SALAS AND ODOM

- Assisted in coding birdsong spectrograms for downstream data analysis.
- Created analysis protocol and generate graphics for future researchers on the project.

Cornell Lab of Ornithology

May 2018–May 2019

Florida Duskywing Genetics Project, Research Assistant

HEFFERNAN LAB

- Carried out a population genetics analysis of the threatened Florida Duskywing skipper butterfly to inform conservation policy.
- Performed next-generation sequencing in order to develop novel microsatellite markers
- Results in prep for publication.

New College of Florida

August 2017–May 2018

NSF Research Experiences for Undergraduates Intern

DEPARTMENT OF INVERTEBRATE ZOOLOGY

- Used genetic techniques (Sanger sequencing etc.) to identify the hosts of terrestrial bloodfeeding leeches.
- Presented results at 2017 AMNH REU Symposium; manuscript published in PLoS One.
- Conducted fieldwork to collect invertebrate (leeches, crayfish) for related lab projects.

American Museum of Natural History

May 2017–August 2017

Dakota Skipper Wolbachia Status, Research Assistant

HEFFERNAN LAB

- Conducted DNA extractions and PCR amplifications of Wolbachia pathogen genes from the endangered Dakota Skipper butterfly to identify pathogen strains.
- Performed significant PCR troubleshooting of genes which repeatedly failed to amplify
- Prepared a poster on the findings of the project; presented at a meeting of at the Imperiled Butterfly Working Group.

New College of Florida

January 2017–May 2017

Curatorial Skills & Experiences

Six-Legged Science: Unlocking the Secrets of the Insect World

CORNELL UNIVERSITY INSECT COLLECTION AND MUSEUM OF THE EARTH

- Helped design components of public-facing museum exhibit, including pulling specimens, databasing, and design work

January 2022–March 2022

Collection Databasing, Graduate Worker

CORNELL UNIVERSITY INSECT COLLECTION

- Responsible for databasing specimens in the CUIC's Formicidae collection.
- Mentored undergraduate and graduate students databasing in the the collection.
- Designed training materials for other databasing workers.

August 2020–Present

Teaching

Introduction to Evolution and Diversity Teaching Assistant

BIOEE1780

- Taught three weekly discussion/lab sections.
- Assisted with course transition to an online format due to COVID-19.

Cornell University

January 2020–May 2020

Comparative Physiology Teaching Assistant

BIOG1440

- Taught three weekly discussion/lab sections, leading hands-on investigations of physiological concepts covered in lectures.
- Created extensive, novel course review materials; available on my GitHub.

Cornell University

August 2019–December 2020

Foundations of Biology Teaching Assistant

BIOL2100

- Led review sessions prior to tests and quizzes.
- Met individually with students to address performance questions.

New College of Florida

August 2017–December 2017

Cellular Biology Teaching Assistant

BIOL3500

- Led content-delivery and problem-solving review sessions once per week.
- Assisted in exam grading and clerical tasks.

New College of Florida

August 2016–December 2016

Service

Graduate Student Association Co-President

DEPT. OF ECOLOGY & EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGY

- Liase between graduate student body and faculty leadership to communicate and address graduate student concerns
- Participated in the formation of working groups focused on assessing and improving diversity, equity and inclusion in the department.

Cornell University

July 2020–August 2022

EvoDay Planning Committee

* POSTPONED TO SPRING 2022 DUE TO COVID19

- Identify and invite speakers for a day-long symposium on the theme of “Evolution in Deep Time”.

Cornell University

Spring 2020–NA

Department Seminar Series Committee

DEPT. OF ECOLOGY & EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGY

- This committee plans and coordinates the department’s weekly seminar series
- Responsible for soliciting speaker nominations, constructing schedule of speakers, and assisting host labs with managing their speaker visits.
- While on this committee, I initiated a push to increase the diversity of our invited speakers, based on the best practices identified by Hagan et al. (2020).

Cornell University

August 2019–August 2020

Outreach

Panelist for Exploring Insect Evolution: A Panel on New Research

DARWIN DAYS WEEK

- Gave an outreach talk on path to science and current research as part of the Museum of the Earth’s Darwin Days week of events
- Talk can be viewed at <https://bit.ly/3s4jOGB>

Museum of the Earth

February 2022–NA

Cornell Diversity Preview Weekend

DEPT. OF ECOLOGY & EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGY

- Volunteered for the workshops “Crafting a CV” and “Fellowships and Personal Statements” providing peer review to participants for the 2020 DPW event.
- Served as a peer mentor to a DPW participant during the Fall 2020 semester.
- Answered participant questions as a panelist for the workshop “Crafting a CV” for the 2021 DPW event.

Cornell University

September 2020 and summer 2021–NA

Cornell Insectapalooza

DEPT. OF ENTOMOLOGY

- Manned a table on ant diversity and discussed all things ant with members of the public, including young children, teens and adults.

Cornell University

October 2019–NA

