



Megan Barkdull

PH.D STUDENT, NSF GRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOW

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Education

Ph.D Student, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

ADVISOR: DR. CORRIE MOREAU

Bachelor of Arts in Biology

ADVISOR: DR. EMILY SAARINEN

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

Cornell University

August 2019–May 2025

New College of Florida

August 2014–May 2018

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. Saarinen†, **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.

Awards & Fellowships

National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship

\$138,000

2021–2024

Cornell Fellowship

\$33,241

awarded for Fall 2019–deferred to

Spring 2021

Book Award for Best First-Year Symposium Presentation

December 2019–NA

National Merit Scholar

\$62,414

August 2014–May 2018

Research

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

SAARINEN 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

SAARINEN 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

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 2021 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

Cornell University

August 2019–present

- 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).

Outreach

Cornell Insectapalooza

DEPT. OF ENTOMOLOGY

Cornell University

October 2019–NA

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

Cornell Diversity Preview Weekend

DEPT. OF ECOLOGY & EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGY

Cornell University

September 2020–NA

- Volunteered for the workshops "Crafting a CV" and "Fellowships and Personal Statements" providing peer review to participants.
- Served as a peer mentor to a DPW participant during the Fall 2020 semester.

