**MICAH G. FREEDMAN**

Biodiversity Research Centre | 2212 Main Mall | Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z4

**Email**: micah.freedman@botany.ubc.ca | **Website**: micahfreedman.github.io

**EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

**Postdoctoral Fellow** University of British Columbia 2022-Present

Department of Botany

Vancouver, BC, Canada

**Supervisor: Dr. Amy Angert**

**NSF Postdoctoral Fellow** University of Chicago 2020-2022

Department of Ecology & Evolution

Chicago, IL USA

**Supervisor: Dr. Marcus Kronforst**

**Ph.D., Population Biology** University of California, Davis 2014-2020

Department of Evolution and Ecology

Davis, CA USA

**Advisors: Dr. Sharon Strauss, Dr. Santiago Ramírez**

Dissertation: *Contemporary Evolution During Global Range Expansion in the Monarch Butterfly*

Completion Date: January 30, 2020

**Bachelor of Science** Cornell University 2009-2013

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

Ithaca, NY USA

**Majors: Entomology, Plant Sciences**

**PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS**

**Submitted**

**Freedman, M.G.,** Choquette, S.†, Hunter, M.D., Strauss, S.Y., Ramírez, S.R. & R.L. Vannette (2022). Population-specific patterns of cardenolide sequestration in monarch butterflies from around the world. **In revision**.

Preprint: https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/2021.10.15.464593v2.

Robinson, M.L., Weber, M.G., **Freedman, M.G.**, Jordan, E.†, Yonenaga, J.† & S.Y. Strauss. Broadscale evolution of coloration in caterpillars reflects their interactions with plants and supports classic tenets of plant defense theory. **In revision**.

**Published**

Hemstrom, W.B.\*, **Freedman, M.G.\***, Zalucki, M.P., Ramírez, S.R. & M.R. Miller (2022). Population genetics of a recent range expansion in monarch butterflies. *Molecular Ecology* 31, 4544-4557. doi.org/10.1111/mec.16592.

Pocius, V.M., Majewska, A.A. & **M.G. Freedman** (2022) The role of experiments in monarch butterfly conservation: a review of recent studies and approaches. *Annals of the Entomological Society of America* 115, 10-24. doi.org/10.1093/aesa/saab036

**Freedman, M.G.**, De Roode, J.C., Forsiter, M.L., Kronforst, M.R., Pierce, A.A., Schultz, C.B., Taylor, O.R. & E.E. Crone (2021). Are eastern and western monarch butterflies distinct populations? A review of evidence for ecological, phenotypic, and genetic differentiation and implications for conservation. *Conservation Science and Practice*, 3:e432. doi.org/10.1111/csp2.432

* Cover feature for the [July 2021 issue](https://conbio.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1111/csp2.229)

**Freedman, M.G.**, Dingle, H., Strauss, S.Y. & Ramírez, S.R (2020). Two centuries of monarch butterfly collections reveal contrasting effects of range expansion and migration loss on wing traits. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, USA* 117, 28887-28893. doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2001283117.

* Featured by [UC Davis](https://egghead.ucdavis.edu/2020/11/02/two-centuries-of-monarch-butterflies-show-evolution-of-wing-length/), [San Jose Mercury News](https://www.mercurynews.com/2020/12/07/will-monarch-butterflies-lose-their-large-wings/), [Santa Cruz Sentinel](https://www.santacruzsentinel.com/2020/12/05/wings-change-with-migration-changes/), [East Bay Times](https://www.eastbaytimes.com/2020/12/07/will-monarch-butterflies-lose-their-large-wings/), [Davis Enterprise](https://www.davisenterprise.com/news/local/uc-davis-study-how-loss-of-migration-and-range-expansion-affects-monarch-wings/)

**Freedman, M.G.**, Jason, C.†, Ramirez, S.R. & S.Y. Strauss (2020). Host plant adaptation during contemporary range expansion in the monarch butterfly. *Evolution* 74, 377-391. doi.org/10.1111/evo.13914.

**Freedman, M.G**. & H. Dingle. (2018). Wing morphology in migratory North American monarchs: characterizing sources of variation and understanding changes through time. *Animal Migration* 5, 61-73. doi.org/10.1515/ami-2018-0003

* Featured by [National Geographic](https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/2018/12/monarch-butterflies-risk-extinction-climate-change/) and as part of a television production by the Japanese National Broadcasting Corporation (NHK)

**Freedman, M.G.**, Miller, R.H. & H.S. Rogers. (2018). Landscape-level bird loss increases the prevalence of honeydew-producing insects and invasive ants. *Oecologia* 188, 1263-1272. doi.org/10.1007/s00442-018-4273-5.

**Freedman, M.G.**, Dingle, H., Chiu, J.C., Tabuloc, C. Yang, L.H. & M.P. Zalucki. (2018). Non-migratory monarch butterflies retain developmental and transcriptional mechanisms associated with migration. *Biological Journal of the Linnean Society* 123, 265-278. doi.org/10.1093/biolinnean/blx148.

**In Preparation**

**Freedman, M.G.**, Ramírez, S.R. & S.Y. Strauss. Parallel reductions in physical and chemical defenses against herbivores in flora from the California Channel Islands. (Draft and code posted publicly on Github).

*(\*Authors contributed equally; †Undergraduate coauthor)*

**FUNDED RESEARCH PROPOSALS**

Using stable isotopes and cardenolide fingerprinting to identify natal origins of western monarch butterflies. Co-PI with Drs. Louie Yang, Emily Meineke, and Chris Funk. 2022-2023. **$19,250**. Awarded by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

**FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS**

NSF Postdoctoral Research Fellowship in Biology - **$138,000 2020-2022**

Center for Population Biology Summer Research Award - **$1,693 2019-2020**

Center for Population Biology Summer Research Award - **$1,700 2018-2019**

Center for Population Biology Summer Research Award - **$1,800** **2017-2018**

National Geographic Society Exploration Grant - **$4,750 2017-2018**

NSF EAPSI Australia Fellowship - **$5,400** **2016**

SSE Rosemary Grant Award - **$2,250** **2016-2017**

Mildred E. Mathias Research Award - **$2,752 2016-2017**

Center for Population Biology Summer Research Award - **$1,800** **2015-2016**

National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship  **2015-2019**

Davis Botanical Society Award - **$1,690 2015-2016**

Hunter Rawlings Cornell Presidential Research Scholarship - **$32,000** **2009-2013**

Garden Club of America Summer Environmental Scholarship - **$2,000** **2011**

**INVITED SEMINARS AND LECTURES**

“Global range expansion, loss of migration, and adaptation in the monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*).” Invited seminar, University of Colorado Denver, Department of Integrative Biology, October 7, 2022.

“Toxin sequestration and its importance in plant-animal interactions.” Invited guest lecture for EEB440: Ecology and Evolution of Plant-Animal Interactions, University of Toronto, September 23, 2022.

“Global range expansion in the monarch butterfly: ecological and evolutionary implications.” Invited seminar, University of Illinois at Chicago Department of Biological Sciences, October 26, 2021.

“Contemporary evolution during global range expansion in the monarch butterfly.” Eco-Evo Lunch Seminar Series, Stanford University, March 3, 2020.

“Contemporary evolution of monarch butterflies in North America and abroad.” Invited seminar, Iowa State University Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Biodiversity, December 12, 2019.

“The ecology and evolution of monarch butterflies on Pacific islands.” POETS seminar series, University of Guam, June 1, 2018.

**CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

**Freedman, M.G.,** Agrawal. A.A., Hastings, A.P., Papa, R. & M.R. Kronforst. Functional genomics of cardenolide sequestration in monarch butterflies (*Danaus plexippus*). Oral presentation at the 2022 Entomological Society of America Meeting, Vancouver, BC.

**Freedman, M.G.,** Choquette, S., Hunter, M.D., Strauss, S.Y., Ramírez, S.R. & R.L. Vannette. Population-specific patterns of cardenolide sequestration in monarch butterflies from around the world. Oral presentation at the 2022 Evolution Meeting, Cleveland, OH.

**Freedman, M.G.**, Hemstrom, W.B., Miller, M.R., Zalucki, M.P., Ramírez, S.R. & S.Y. Strauss. Standing genetic variation in monarch butterflies and its conservation implications. Invited oral presentation at the 2019 Entomological Society of America Meeting, Saint Louis, MO.

**Freedman, M.G.**, Jason, C., Ramirez, S.R. & S.Y. Strauss. Host plant adaptation during global range expansion in the monarch butterfly. Oral presentation at the 2019 Evolution Meeting, Providence, RI.

**Freedman, M.G.**, Jason, C., Ramirez, S.R. & S.Y. Strauss. Host plant adaptation during global range expansion in the monarch butterfly. Poster presented at the 2019 Gordon Conference on Plant-Herbivore Interactions, Ventura, CA.

**Freedman, M.G.** Parallel loss of defenses against ungulate herbivores in chaparral shrubs from the Channel Islands, California, USA. Oral presentation at the 2017 Ecological Society of America Meeting, Portland, OR.

**Freedman, M.G.** Contemporary evolution of monarch butterflies in their introduced range. Oral presentation at the 2017 Evolution Meeting, Portland, OR.

**Freedman, M.G.**, Miller, R.H. & H.S. Rogers. Assessing the importance of “unwanted” mutualisms between invasive ants and honeydew-producing insects in native forests of the Northern Mariana Islands. Poster presented at the 2014 Ecological Society of America Conference, Sacramento, CA.

**Freedman, M.G.**, Campbell, S.A., Halitschke, R. & A. Kessler. Evolution of reduced floral scent emission under multiple independent transitions from outcrossing to selfing in the wild nightshades (Solanaceae). Poster presented at the 2014 Gordon Conference on Plant Volatiles, Ventura, CA.

**REVIEWER EXPERIENCE**

**Manuscript reviews:** *PNAS, Cell, Journal of Biogeography, Ecological Entomology, Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution, Biological Invasions, Journal of Tropical Ecology, Ecology and Evolution*, *Scientific Reports*, *Journal of Thermal Biology, Journal of Tropical Biology and Conservation*

**Funding proposal reviews:** National Geographic Explorer Award (2022)

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

Teaching Assistant: EVE 100 – Introduction to Evolution Fall 2019

Reader: EVE 181 – Plant-Animal Interactions Fall 2016

Reader: EVE 101 – Introduction to Ecology Spring 2016

Teaching assistant: EVE 100 - Introduction to Evolution Fall 2015

**SERVICE ACTIVITIES**

**Graduate Student Mentor**: UC Davis EEGAP (Evolution and Ecology Graduate Admissions Pathways) partnership with Howard University

**Graduate Student Mentor**: UC Davis SEEDS (Strategies for Ecology Education, Diversity, and Sustainability) undergraduate club

**Assistant instructor**: R Bootcamp – 2017

**Outreach activities**: Invited guest scientist for CIM2AS student interns at University of Illinois, Chicago (2022), panel participant on how to find a postdoc (2021 Evolution meeting), Volunteer at UC Davis Picnic Day (2015, 2018, 2019), UC Davis Biodiversity Museum Day (2019), UC Davis BioBlitz (2016), Science Exploration Day at the Chabot Space and Science Center in Oakland, CA (2017)

**PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

Entomological Society of America October 2019 - Present

Society for the Study of Evolution March 2015 - Present

Ecological Society of America August 2014 – Present