

Miranda McKibben

Department of Plant Biology
University of Georgia
Athens, GA 30602

Email: mmm07490@uga.edu

Education

2022-current PhD student. Department of Plant Biology, University of Georgia, Athens GA
Major Professor: Dr. Bensasson
2018-2022 B.S. (Biology) with Specialization in Ecology and Evolution.
University of Chicago, Chicago IL
2016-2018 Delaware Area Career Center Zoo School Program.
Columbus Zoo and Aquarium, Powell OH

Awards/Honors

2021-2022 University of Chicago Dean's List
2018 Valedictorian at Olentangy Orange High School

Research Support

Awarded

2023-2025 NIH T32 Genetics Training Grant
2022 Ecology and Evolution Fellowship (\$1,000 for research supplies, \$5,000 stipend)

Posters/Presentations

Presentations

10/2024 Phylogeography of the environmental yeast *Saccharomyces paradoxus*, presented at SouthEastern Population Ecology and Evolutionary Genetics conference
09/2023 Phylogeography in a yeast with local thermal adaptation, presented at SouthEastern Population Ecology and Evolutionary Genetics conference
04/2022 Allelic variation associated with resistance to the emerald ash borer, presented to the University of Chicago Department of Ecology and Evolution as part of the Ecology and Evolution Fellowship recipient requirements

Posters

04/2022 Allelic variation associated with resistance to the emerald ash borer, presented at University of Chicago Undergraduate Research Symposium
04/2017 Causes of stereotypical behavior observed in cougars in captivity, presented at Zoo School open house event at the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium

Teaching/Mentoring

Miranda McKibben

- 08/2023-current Undergraduate lab mentor to two undergraduate students
- 01/2023-05/2023 Spring semester. Graduate Laboratory Assistant, Principles of Biology II (BIOL 1108)

Outreach/Service

- 03/2024 Judge at Georgia Science and Engineering Fair. Judged and provided feedback for 12 research posters presented by middle school and high school students.
- 12/2023 Judge at Plant Biology Undergraduate Research Symposium at the University of Georgia. Evaluated and provided feedback on five undergraduate research posters.
- 11/2023 Led an Introduction to RStudio workshop for 24 students in their junior year of high school with no prior coding experience. Introduced basic concepts (how to use the console, store values in the global environment, call packages and functions, and upload datasets) and scheduled a follow-up workshop for April.
- 03/2023 Judge at Georgia Science and Engineering Fair. Judged and provided feedback for 12 research posters presented by middle school and high school students.
- 2018-2020 Prospective student representative. University of Chicago, Chicago, IL. One of two undergraduate students in charge of finding hosts for between 12 and 20 prospective undergraduates (high school students), providing a tour of campus, an overview of programs offered and answering questions about college life.
- 06-07/2017 Zoo aide. Columbus Zoo and Aquarium, Powell, OH. Sixty-four hours of volunteer service, stationed at tables throughout the zoo, presenting facts about exhibits and animals to guests as well as using sensory objects (felt what it would be like to touch a manatee or kangaroo)

Additional Training

- 2023-2024 Lab manager. Responsible for keeping stock of lab supplies, ordering lab supplies, experiment preparation and planning, and undergraduate supervision.
- 2020 *Introduction to Imaging for Biological Research*. Marine Biological Laboratories, Woods Hole, MA. Gained experience with different types of biological imaging, performed a project using live-imaging to observe the division of cells in embryos of *Paryhale hawaianis*, and used Massive Multi-view Tracker (MaMUT) software to annotate the movement of the cells as they divided.

Miranda McKibben

- 2020 *Microbiomes Across Environments*. Marine Biological Laboratories, Woods Hole, MA. Gained experience in field sampling, DNA extraction, bioinformatic analysis (Ubuntu), and microbiome analysis (QIIME2).
- 2019-2020 Research Assistant at USDA Forest Service Northern Research Station, Delaware, OH. Maintained health of experimental and control trees, monitored and recorded observations on the health of both beech and ash trees on plantation, with special attention to beech leaf disease; collected data on tree health and successful emerald ash borer larvae entry into tree throughout experiment, dissected ash trees, and weighed and measured the removed emerald ash borer larvae before recording data.
- 2016-2017 Zoo School Research Project. Columbus Zoo and Aquarium, Powell, OH. Designed and performed a six-month quasi-experimental study on the causes of stereotypical behavior observed in cougars at the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium through the Delaware Area Career Center Zoo School program. In addition to creating an ethogram for cougar behavior, designing and performing a scan study, and analyzing data using ANOVA and post-hoc scheffe tests I wrote a mock thesis and presented a poster to the public.