

Sophie T. Breitbart

PhD Candidate, University of Toronto
Department of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology

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Education

University of Toronto, Toronto, ON, Canada 2018-present
PhD Candidate, Ecology & Evolutionary Biology
Advisors: Drs. Marc Johnson and Helene Wagner

Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT, USA 2012-2016
B.A., Biology, Certificate in Integrative Genomics Sciences: Informatics & Modeling

Queen Mary, University of London, London, UK 1-5/2015
Study Abroad Program

Research & Professional Experience

Graduate Research Assistant, University of Toronto Mississauga 2018-present
Mississauga, ON, Canada
PIs: Drs. Marc Johnson and Helene Wagner
Thesis title: Effects of Urbanization on the Evolutionary Ecology & Population Genetics of Common Milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*)

Staff Scientist I, Princeton Hydro 2016-2018
South Glastonbury, CT, USA
Devising dam removal plan sets with AutoCAD, spatial analysis and map creation with ArcGIS, watershed management plan writing.

Aquatics Intern, Princeton Hydro 2016
South Glastonbury, CT, USA
Water quality testing, aquatic plant mapping, spatial analysis with ArcGIS.

Undergraduate Researcher, Wesleyan University 2014-2016
Middletown, CT, USA
PIs: Drs. Barry Chernoff and Helen Poulos
Dace (*Rhinichthys atratulus*, *Rhinichthys cataractae*) biogeography and phylogeography.

Undergraduate Researcher, Wesleyan University 2013-2014
Middletown, CT, USA
PI: Dr. Fred Cohan
Bacillus phylogeography and speciation.

Independent Study, Skidmore College 2009-2011
Saratoga Springs, NY, USA
PI: Dr. Bernard Possidente
Circadian locomotor activity in *Drosophila melanogaster*.

Honors & Awards

RESEARCH GRANTS

University of Toronto EEB PhD Research Grant (\$2,000)	2021
Centre for Urban Environments Research Grant (\$1,940)	2021
Sigma Xi Grant in Aid of Research (\$1,000)	2020
Centre for Urban Environments Workshop/Symposium Grant (\$2,500)	2020
<i>Co-applicants: L. Miles, H. Abdel Hafez.</i>	
NSERC CREATE Enviro Trainee (\$23,700)	2018-2019
<i>Primary applicants: H. Wagner, M. Johnson.</i>	
Wesleyan University College of the Environment Summer Research Fellowship (\$4,000)	2014
Wesleyan University Carol and Robert Lynch Student Research Fund Grant (\$905)	2013
Wesleyan University Howard Hughes Medical Institute Grant (\$884)	2013

SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

Zimmerman/Weis Graduate Award (\$10,950/year)	2020, 2021
International Association for Landscape Ecology Conference Travel Award (\$600)	2019
Joseph Scacalossi Scholarship (\$4,000)	2012

Publications

BOOK CHAPTERS

1. Santangelo J.S., Miles, L.S., **Breitbart, S.T.**, Murray-Stoker, D., Rivkin, L.R., Johnson, M.T.J. and Ness, R.W., *Urban environments as a framework to study parallel evolution*. In: *Urban Evolutionary Biology*. Edited by Marta Szulkin, Jason Munshi-South and Anne Charmantier: Oxford University Press (2020). © Oxford University Press. DOI: [10.1093/oso/9780198836841.003.0003](https://doi.org/10.1093/oso/9780198836841.003.0003)

JOURNAL ARTICLES

2. Miles, L.S.*, **S.T. Breitbart***, H.H. Wagner, and M.T.J. Johnson. 2019. Urbanization Shapes the Ecology and Evolution of Plant-Arthropod Herbivore Interactions. *Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution* 7:1–14. DOI: [10.3389/fevo.2019.00310](https://doi.org/10.3389/fevo.2019.00310)
1. **Breitbart, S.** and Weigel, E. February 2019, posting date. Visualizing a Disease Outbreak Using ESRI Story Maps. *Teaching Issues and Experiments in Ecology*, Vol. 15: Practice #1 [online]. https://tiee.esa.org/vol/v15/issues/data_sets/breitbart/abstract.html

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

2. **Breitbart, S.** Urban Evolution: A Brief Introduction. ESRI StoryMap. May 2020. <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/446efee44f8d49578d3c62bfe2c25fc1>
1. **Breitbart, S.**, Hildebrandt, A., Possidente, B. 2010. [Assessing Effects of Sex, Mating Status, and a White-Eye Mutation in a Co-Isogenic Background on Circadian Locomotor Activity in *Drosophila melanogaster*](#). *Drosophila Information Service* 93:171-175.

Presentations

14. **Breitbart, S.**, Wagner, H., Johnson, M. Testing for Genetic Clines in Phenotypic Traits Along an Urban-Rural Gradient in *Asclepias syriaca*. Presentation. Canadian Society for Ecology & Evolution (CSEE), Virtual Conference. 8/18/2021.

13. **Breitbart, S.**, Wagner, H., Johnson, M. Testing for Genetic Clines in Phenotypic Traits Along an Urban-Rural Gradient in *Asclepias syriaca*. Presentation. Evolution, Virtual Conference. 6/21/2021.
12. **Breitbart, S.** Applying to and Succeeding in Graduate School. Seminar Panel. Honors Biology Thesis Course (BIO481), Virtual Seminar. 11/27/2020.
11. **Breitbart, S.**, Wagner, H., Johnson, M. Effects of Urbanization on Reproductive Success in Common Milkweed. Presentation. University of Toronto Mississauga Graduate Research Colloquium, Virtual Conference. 5/27/2020.
10. **Breitbart, S.**, Wagner, H., Johnson, M. Effects of Urbanization on Reproductive Success in Common Milkweed. Presentation. Annual Meeting of the North American Regional Association of the International Association for Landscape Ecology, Virtual Conference. 5/11/2020.
9. **Breitbart, S.** Urban Evolutionary Ecology & Career Path Advice. Invited Seminar Panel. Biodiversity and the City (EEB197), Toronto, Ontario. 1/28/2020.
8. **Breitbart, S.**, Wagner, H., Johnson, M. Effects of Urbanization on Reproductive Success in Common Milkweed. Seminar Presentation. Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research, Birmensdorf, Switzerland. 7/10/2019.
7. **Breitbart, S.**, Wagner, H., Johnson, M. Effects of Urbanization on Reproductive Success in Common Milkweed. Flash Talk. International Association for Landscape Ecology World Congress, Milan, Italy. 7/2/2019.
6. **Breitbart, S.** Urban Evolution of Common Milkweed. Guest Lecture. Temperate Field Biology (EEB 405), King City, Ontario. 5/25/2019.
5. **Breitbart, S.** Elevator Pitch. Atwood Colloquium, Toronto, Ontario. 4/13/2019.
4. **Breitbart, S.**, Poulos, H., Krackowski, M., Chernoff, B. (2016). Using GIS to Predict Effects of Landscape Metrics on Genetic Diversity in *R. atratulus*. Poster Presentation. Northeast Arc Users Group Spring Spatial Technologies Conference, Amherst, Massachusetts. 5/9/2016.
3. **Breitbart, S.** Ecological Niche Modeling with Maxent. Guest Lecture. Evolutionary and Ecological Bioinformatics (BIOL 327), Middletown, Connecticut. 11/19/2015.
2. Chernoff, B., Krackowski, M., Angel, J., Meyer, A., Nash, C., Roman-Johnston, N., **Breitbart, S.** Over the Falls: Population Differentiation of Blacknose and Longnose Dace, *Rhinichthys atratulus* and *R. cataractae*, in Connecticut. Poster Presentation. Wesleyan Summer Research Symposium, Middletown, Connecticut. 7/31/2014.
1. **Breitbart, S.**, Hildebrandt, A., Possidente, B. (2010). Assessing Effects of Sex, Mating Status, and a White-Eye Mutation in a Co-Isogenic Background on Circadian Locomotor Activity in *Drosophila melanogaster*. University at Albany Undergraduate Research Symposium, Albany, New York. 4/29/2011.

Workshops

3. Filazzola, A., **Breitbart, S.** (2021). Fast-R: Improving the Reproducibility and Efficiency of your Coding. Santa Barbara R Meetup. <https://afilazzola.github.io/SBMeetup2021-FastR/>

2. Filazzola, A., **Breitbart, S.** (2021). Fast-R: Making R Work Hard So That You Don't Have To. Canadian Society for Ecology & Evolution (CSEE) Annual Meeting. <https://afilazzola.github.io/FastR/>
1. Filazzola, A., **Breitbart, S.** (2021). Fast-R: Making R Work Hard So That You Don't Have To. Society for Open, Reliable, and Transparent Ecology and Evolutionary Biology (SORTEE) Annual Meeting. <https://afilazzola.github.io/FastR/>

Teaching & Supervisory Experience

TEACHING

University of Toronto Mississauga

Teaching Assistant , Evolutionary Biology (BIO342)	2021
Teaching Assistant , Biometrics (BIO360)	2019, 2020, 2021
Teaching Assistant , Introduction to Evolution & Evolutionary Genetics (BIO152)	2019
Teaching Assistant , Ecology (BIO205)	2018

Princeton Hydro

Intern Manager , New England Regional Office	2017
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Wesleyan University

Professorial Assistant, Peer Tutor, Cartographer , GIS Assistant Program	2015-2016
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SUPERVISORY EXPERIENCE

Danil Karimov, work-study student. Leaf image analysis with ImageJ.	2019-2021
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Community Involvement

REVIEWER FOR

Journal of Urban Ecology, Functional Ecology

DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

UTM Representative , EEB Graduate Student Association	2021-present
Fundraising Representative (elected), EEB Graduate Student Association	2020-2021
Treasurer , UTM Biology Graduate Student Society	2020-2021
Undergraduate Mentor , Grad Connect Mentorship Program (Mariana Walker)	2020-2021
Volunteer , School of Graduate Studies Listening Sessions for Women in STEM	2020
Organizer & Guide , Greenhouse Tour (Wellness Event for UTM Grads)	2019
Peer Mentor , EEB Mentorship Program (Vicki Zhang, Siyu Wang)	2019-present
Volunteer , "Biodiversity in the City" Public Panel Discussion, Royal Ontario Museum	2019
Volunteer , Alumni and Friends Family Day at the Koffler Scientific Reserve	2019
Member , UTM Biology Graduate Student Society	2018-2020

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Symposium Co-organizer , "Landscape Genetics as a Tool for Managing Human-Impacted Landscapes". 2020 IALE-North America Conference. <i>Co-organizers: L. Miles, H. Abdel Hafez.</i>	2019-2020
Mentor , MentorNet (Jessie Moravek, Lancaster University)	2019
Steering Committee Member , Wesleyan Women in Science	2013-2016
Panelist , Wesleyan Women in Science Summer STEM Internship Info Session	2016

Science Facilities Tour Guide, WesFest (Wesleyan's Admitted Students Recruitment Event) 2014
Member, Wesleyan Women in Science 2012-2013

ORGANIZATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS

Member, Society for the Study of Evolution (SSE) 2021-present
Member, Sigma Xi: The Scientific Research Honor Society 2021-present
Chapter Coordinator, Canadian Association for Girls in Science- Toronto Chapter 2020-present
Volunteer, Canadian Association for Girls in Science- Toronto Chapter 2019-2020
Founder & Leader, Walking in the Woods with Words (Forest Bathing Club) 2019-2020
Volunteer, High Park Nature Stewards 2018-present
Member, Canadian Society of Ecology and Evolution (CSEE) 2018-present

SCIENCE COMMUNICATION

Volunteer, Skype a Scientist (3 classes) 2020-present
Interviewee, "Scientific Names", *Toronto Nature Now* Radio Show 2020
Writer (Top 3 Contributor), [Life in the City Urban Evolution Blog](http://www.urbanevolution-litc.com) 2018-present
www.urbanevolution-litc.com