Curriculum Vitae – Thomas Blankers

Westerlengte 152
1034 PT, Amsterdam
The Netherlands
thomasblankers@gmail.com

Date of birth 08 October 1986
Place of Birth Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

Current position **Marie Curie postdoctoral fellow** at **University of Amsterdam**, Inst. for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Dynamics. Supervision: Prof. Astrid T. Groot.

Degrees

PhD Humboldt University Berlin, Germany. Supervision: Prof. Matthias Hennig. Graduated *summa cum laude* 20 May, 2016.

MSc University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands. MSc in Biological sciences, track Ecology and Evolution, Graduated *cum laude* 30 November, 2011.

BSc University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands. BSc in Biology. Graduated 27 August, 2008.

Work and Education

Aug 2016 – Sep 2018 **Postdoctoral associate**, Department of Neurobiology and Behavior, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, USA. Supervision: Prof. Kerry L. Shaw.

Nov 2015 - Jul 2016 Homework tutor. The 4de Gymnasium Amsterdam (high school), The Netherlands.

Aug 2012 - Dec 2016 **Guest researcher.** Museum für Naturkunde Berlin, Leibniz institute for evolution and biodiversity science, Berlin, Germany. GENART (functional genomics of speciation) project. Supervision: Dr. Frieder Mayer.

Aug 2012 - Oct 2015 **PhD research**. Humboldt University Berlin, Germany. Thesis title: *Acoustic communication, sexual selection, and speciation in field crickets*. Supervision: Prof. Matthias Hennig.

Jun 2012 - Jul 2012 Sailing and windsurfing instructor at the Sloterplas lake in Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

Apr 2012 – May 2012 **Teacher Assistant** in the undergraduate course 'Evolutionary Genetics' at the University of Amsterdam. Supervision: Prof. Hans Breeuwer

Dec 2011- Feb 2012 **Teacher Assistant**. Testing and evaluating the suitability of a student-generated evolutionary genetics experiment for undergraduate education. Subject: UV-induced mutagenesis of the lac-operon in *Escherichia coli*. UvA. Supervision: Prof. Hans Breeuwer.

Sep 2009 - Nov 2011 **Master in biological sciences**, track Ecology and Evolution, University of Amsterdam. Graduated cum laude 30 November, 2011

Jan 2011- Nov 2011 **MSc Research project** (60 ECTS) at the Stony Brook University (SBU), Stony Brook, NY, USA, in the department of ecology and evolution. Thesis title: *Adaptive Radiation and Morphological diversification in Salamanders and Lizards.* Supervision: Prof. John J. Wiens (SBU), Prof. Steph B.J. Menken (UvA).

Nov 2010 - Dec 2010 **Teacher Assistant** in the undergraduate course 'Genetics and Evolution' at the University of Amsterdam. Supervision: Prof. Hans Breeuwer

Jul 2010 - Sep 2010 Sailing and windsurfing instructor at the Sloterplas lake in Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

Mar 2010 - Jun 2010 **MSc Research project** (30 ECTS) at the VU University Amsterdam within the department of Animal Ecology. Thesis title: *Nutrient signaling: genomics underlying lipid metabolism pathways in the parasitoid wasp Nasonia vitripennis*. Supervision: Merijn Kant (UvA), Jacintha Ellers (VU), Bertanne Visser (VU).

Sep 2008 - Aug 2009 Break + Spanish course in Spain.

Sep 2005 – Aug 2008	**Bachelor in biology.** University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Graduated 27 August, 2008
Apr 2008 - May 2008	**BSc Research project** (18 ECTS) at the **University of Amsterdam** within the Institute for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Dynamics (IBED). Thesis title: *Adaptive speciation appraised: how disruptive selection forces sympatric populations of the two-spotted spider mite to diversify*. Supervision: Martijn Egas.
Sep 2007	Course for high school education in life sciences at the University of Amsterdam (12 ECTS). Supervision: Riny van Krieken (UvA – Interfacultaire Lerarenopleidingen).

Publications (* marks undergraduate student contributions, number of citations in parentheses)
Accepted/published

1. **Blankers, T**.; Oh, K.P.; Bombarely, A.; Shaw, K.L. 2018. The genomic architecture of a rapid island radiation: recombination rate variation, chromosome structure, and genome assembly of the Hawaiian cricket Laupala. *Genetics* **209:** 1329–1344
2. **Blankers, T**., Oh, K.P., & Shaw, K.L. 2018. The genetics of a behavioral speciation phenotype in an island system. *Genes* **9:** E346
3. **Blankers, T**., Block, R*. & Hennig, R.M. 2018. Codivergence but limited covariance of wing shape and calling song structure in field crickets (*Gryllus*). *Evol. Biol.* **45:** 144-155
4. **Blankers, T**., Vilaca, S.T., Waurick, I., Gray, D.A., Hennig, R.M., Mazzoni, C.J. & Mayer, F, Berdan, E.L. 2018. Demography and selection shape transcriptomic divergence in field crickets. *Evolution* **72**: 553-567
5. **Blankers, T**., Gray, D.A. & Hennig, R.M. 2017. Multivariate phenotypic evolution: divergent acoustic signals and sexual selection in *Gryllus* field crickets. *Evol. Biol.* **44**: 43-57
6. Gray, D.A., **Blankers, T.** & Hennig, R.M. 2016. Multivariate female preference tests reveal latent perceptual biases. *Proc. Roy. Soc. B: Biol. Sci.* **283**: 1842
7. **Blankers T**. 2016. Acoustic communication, sexual selection, and speciation in field crickets. *Phd Thesis*. https://edoc.hu-berlin.de/handle/18452/18205
8. Berdan, E.L., **Blankers, T**., Waurick, I., Mazzoni, C.J., & Mayer, F. 2016. A genes eye view of ontogeny: *De novo* assembly and profiling of the *Gryllus rubens* transcriptome. *Mol. Ecol. Res.* **16**:1478-1490
9. Hennig, R.M., **Blankers, T**. & Gray, D.A. 2016. Divergence in male cricket song and female preference functions in three allopatric sister species. *J. Comp. Phys. A.* **202**:347-60
10. **Blankers, T**., Lübke, A.K.* & Hennig, R.M. 2015. Phenotypic variation and covariation indicate high evolvability of acoustic communication in crickets. *J. Evol. Biol.* **28**: 1656-1669
11. **Blankers, T**., Hennig, R.M. & Gray, D.A. 2015. Conservation of multivariate female preference functions and preference mechanisms in three species of trilling field crickets. *J. Evol. Biol.* **28**: 630–641.
12. **Blankers, T**., Townsend, T.M., Pepe, K., Reeder, T.W. & Wiens, J.J. 2013. Contrasting global-scale evolutionary radiations: Phylogeny, diversification, and morphological evolution in the major clades of iguanian lizards. *Biol. J. Linn. Soc.* **108**: 127–143.
13. **Blankers, T**., Adams, D.C. & Wiens, J.J. 2012. Ecological radiation with limited morphological diversification in salamanders. *J. Evol. Biol.* **25**: 634–646.

Conference Posters & Talks (* talks, † invited talks)

Blankers T., Kevin P. Oh, Kerry L. Shaw. Parallel Genetic Architectures for a Behavioral Speciation Phenotype. European Society for Evolutionary Biology, Montpellier, France, 2018.

***Blankers, T.** Shaw K.L. Convergence and constraints in behavioral isolation: a tale of two crickets. NBB symposium 2017, Ithaca, NY, USA, 8 December 2017

Blankers, T. Shaw, K.L. The genomic architecture of repeated sexual signal divergence. Evolution, Portland (OR), 26 June 2017.

Blankers, T. Shaw, K.L. The geographic context of speciation in crickets. Evolution, Portland (OR), 26 June 2017.

†**Blankers, T**. Shaw, K.L. Sexual selection, population divergence, and the genomic mosaic of local evolutionary histories. EvoDay, Lab of Ornithology, Cornell University. Ithaca NY, USA 11 May 2017.

***Blankers, T.** Shaw, K.L. Speciation islands? Behavioral and genomic divergence along a spatio-temporal cline. Cornell University NBB symposium 2016. Ithaca NY, USA, 9 December 2016.

†Blankers, T. Acoustic communication, sexual selection, and speciation in field crickets. University of Amsterdam, 11 May 2016.

†Blankers T. & Berdan E.L. Population genetics becomes population genomics: what the 'omics era means for evolutionary biology. Berlin Center for Genomics and Biodiversity Research (BeGenDiv), Berlin, Germany, 23 September 2015.

***Blankers T**., Berdan E.L., Vilaca S., Waurick I., Mazzoni C.J., Gray, D.A. & Mayer F. Divergence in acoustic and chemical mate signaling genes after speciation with gene flow in field crickets. Berlin Center for Genomics and Biodiversity Research (BeGenDiv), Berlin, Germany, 23 September 2015.

Blankers T., Berdan E.L., Vilaca S., Waurick I., Mazzoni C.J. & Mayer F. Patterns of transcriptomic divergence and demographic history in field crickets. Candidate genes for the evolution of reproductive isolation in the presence of gene flow. European Society for Evolutionary Biology, Lausanne, Switzerland, 2015.

***Blankers T**., The genetic architecture of calling song and song preference traits in *Gryllus rubens* and *G. texensis*. Patterns of inheritance and phenotypic integration. Ortoptheran Bioacoustics Meeting, Zingst, Germany, 2015.

Blankers T., Mayer F. & Hennig R.M. Premating reproductive isolation between two closely related cricket species. European Society for Evolutionary Biology, Lisbon, Portugal, 2013.

Peer reviews

Axios Review (1), Biological Journal of the Linnean Society (2), Contributions to Zoology (1), Evolution (2), Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society (1), Genes (1)

Supervising and Mentoring

I have supervised 3 BSc students two of which have provided a substantial contribution to a published/submitted manuscript. I have also assist in three BSc courses and one MSc course at the Humboldt University, 2 BSc courses at the University of Amsterdam, and have substantial experience in tutoring and lecturing at high schools. I currently co-advise one graduate student at Cornell University.

Funds Raised

2011	Amsterdams Universitair Fonds
2011	Stichting Dr. Hendrik Muller Vaderlandsch Fonds
2018	Marie Curie Individual Fellowship (start date 01 oct 2018)

Languages (ILR / CEFR)

Dutch: native (5 / -)
English: academic/proficiency (4 / C2)
German: proficiency (3 / C1)
Spanish: advanced (2+ / B2)

References

Prof. R. Matthias Hennig, Humboldt-University Berlin, Germany. matthias.hennig@biologie.hu-berlin.de
Prof. Kerry L. Shaw, Cornell University, NY, USA. kls4@cornell.edu