

Tobias Gerhard Mueller

NSF Graduate Fellow

McArt Lab ♦ Danforth Lab

Department of Entomology, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY

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Education

Ph. D. | Entomology

2021 - present

Advised by Scott McArt and Bryan Danforth
Cornell University

B. Sc. with honors | Environmental Science and Management

2014 - 2017

Focus on Ecology, Biodiversity, and Conservation
University of California, Davis

Professional Appointments

Campus Head Steward

Feb 2020 - June 2021

UAW5810, Postdoc and Academic Researchers Union

- Elected as first ever UC Davis campus head steward
- Seated on the union leadership body representing approx. 12,000 postdocs and academic researchers
- Personally met with the majority of academic researchers hired at UC Davis to explain their rights and deal with problem resolution

Lab Manager | Staff Researcher

Oct 2019 - June 2021

Vannette Lab, UC Davis Department of Entomology

- Oversaw and managed research lab of approx. 10 people
- Conducted experiments on flower nectar microbes looking at community formation, antimicrobial nectar proteins, and the impacts of nectar microbes on pollination
- Constructed a MALDI-TOF custom identification library to allow for high throughput identification of unknown microbes to species in minutes

Field Technician

Jun 2019 - Oct 2019

Sacramento Yolo County Mosquito Vector Control District

- Scouted and treated mosquito source populations to stop the spread of west nile virus
- Provided public outreach to citizens about mosquito abatement practices
- Sampled and collected mosquito populations to quantify the prevalence of west nile virus
- Implemented Integrated Pest Management (IPM) treatment practices to stop mosquito pesticide resistance

Staff Researcher

Feb 2018 - June 2019

Rosenheim Lab, UC Davis Department of Entomology

- Designed and ran experiments both in the lab and field which led to the rewriting of California citrus IPM guidelines
- Oversaw and managed a large database of confidential grower crop information
- Served as a liaison for farmers and agricultural groups by disseminating information and coordinating research
- Attended and presented regularly at citrus extension meetings and conferences
- Analyzed experimental data on pest impacts across citrus species

Research Assistant

Aug 2015 - Dec 2017

Rosenheim Lab, UC Davis Department of Entomology

- Conducted multi-year field sampling in alfalfa and cotton across California
- Performed behavioral assays of beneficial insects
- Received university funding to develop and pursue independent research on insect viral-behavioral interactions and their related metabolomic impacts

Publications, peer reviewed

Francis, J., **Mueller, T.**, Vannette, R. (2023) Dispersal overwhelms variation in host quality in shaping deterministic nectar microbiome assembly. In Review. doi: [10.1101/2023.01.05.522929](https://doi.org/10.1101/2023.01.05.522929)

Mueller, T., Francis, J., Vannette, R. (2023) Nectar compounds can impact the growth of microbes and shift community dynamics in floral nectar. *Environmental Microbiology Reports*. doi: [10.1111/1758-2229.13139](https://doi.org/10.1111/1758-2229.13139)

Kahl, H., **Mueller, T.**, Cass, B., Xi, X., Cluff, E., Rosenheim, J. (2022) Herbivory by European Earwigs (*Forficula auricularia*; Dermaptera: Forficulidae) on Commonly Cultivated California Citrus Species. *Journal of Economic Entomology*. doi: [10.1093/jee/toac030](https://doi.org/10.1093/jee/toac030)

Vannette, R., Hall, G., McMunn, M., **Mueller, T.**, Munkres, I., Perry, D. (2021) Culturable bacteria are more common than fungi in floral nectar and are more easily dispersed by thrips, a ubiquitous flower visitor, *FEMS Microbial Ecology*. doi: [10.1093/femsec/fiab150](https://doi.org/10.1093/femsec/fiab150)

Kahl, H., **Mueller, T.**, Cass, B., Xi, X., Cluff, E., Grafton-Cardwell, B., Rosenheim, J. (2021) Characterizing Herbivory by European earwigs (Dermaptera: Forficulidae) on Navel Orange Fruit. *Journal of Economic Entomology*. doi: [10.1093/jee/toab121](https://doi.org/10.1093/jee/toab121)

Cass, B., Kahl, H., **Mueller, T.**, Xi, X., Grafton-Cardwell, E., Rosenheim, J. (2020) Profile of fork-tailed bush katydid (*Scudderia furcata* Orthoptera: Tettigoniidae) feeding on fruit of clementine mandarins. *Journal of Economic Entomology*. doi: [10.1093/jee/toaa258](https://doi.org/10.1093/jee/toaa258)

Cass, B., Hack, L., **Mueller, T.**, Buckman, D., Grafton-Cardwell, E., Rosenheim, J. (2020) Arthropod infestation levels on mandarins in California. *Journal of Economic Entomology*, 113: 2335–2342. doi: [10.1093/jee/toaa141](https://doi.org/10.1093/jee/toaa141)

Mueller, T., Kahl, H., Cass, B., Grafton-Cardwell, E., Rosenheim, J. (2019) Differential impacts of citrus thrips, *Scirtothrips citri* (Thysanoptera: Thripidae), across sweet orange and mandarin species. *Journal of Economic Entomology*, 112: 2767–2773. doi: [10.1093/jee/toz178](https://doi.org/10.1093/jee/toz178)

Rosenheim, J., Booster, N., Culshaw-Maurer, M., **Mueller, T.**, Kuffel, R., Law, Y., Goodell, P., Pierce, T., Godfrey, L., Hunter, W., Sadeh, A. (2019) Disease, contagious cannibalism and associated population crash in an omnivorous bug, *Geocoris pallens*. *Oecologia*, 190: 69–83. doi: [10.1007/s00442-019-04407-y](https://doi.org/10.1007/s00442-019-04407-y)

Academic presentations

Mueller, T., Danforth, B., McArt, S. (2023) Antimicrobial properties of glands in solitary ground nesting bees may control brood cell microbial community. Cornell Jugatae Entomology Research Symposium. Ithaca, NY. Talk

Mueller, T., Danforth, B., McArt, S. (2022) Antimicrobial properties of glands in solitary ground nesting bees may control brood cell microbial community. Joint annual meeting, Entomological society of America.

Vancouver, CA. Talk

Mueller, T., Zhao, C., Sossa, D., Baert, N., McArt, S. (2022) Pesticide risk during apple pollination differs between honey bees and native wild bees. Cornell Jugatae Entomology Research Symposium. Virtual. Talk

Mueller, T., Zhao, C., Sossa, D., Baert, N., McArt, S. (2022) Pesticide risk during apple pollination differs between honey bees and native wild bees. American Bee Research Conference. Virtual. Talk

Mueller, T., Kahl, H., Cass, B., Rosenheim, J. (2018) Susceptibility to citrus thrips (*Scirtothrips citri*) across citrus species. Conference of the Association of Applied IPM Ecologists, Visalia, CA. Talk

Rosenheim, J., Grafton-Cardwell, E., Cass, B., Kahl, H., **Mueller, T.** (2018) Improving pest management for California mandarins. California Citrus Conference, Visalia, CA. Poster.

Mueller, T., Rosenheim, J. (2017) Testing pathways of viral induced cannibalism in *Geocoris pallens*. UC Davis Undergraduate Research Conference, Davis, CA. Poster

Fellowships and awards

NSF Graduate Research Fellowship	2021
Cornell Entomology Fellowship	2021
UC Davis Provost Undergraduate Research Fellowship	2017
Tracy and Ruth Storer Zoological Scholarship	2015
Departmental Citation for Outstanding Undergraduate Accomplishments	2017
UC Davis Research Scholarship Program in Insect Biology	2015

Outreach

Insectapalooza

Took part in the annual Cornell entomology open house day, interacting with 100s of individuals each year. The event in total has an annual estimated attendance of over 3,000 individuals.

Outreach Talks

Performed dozens of outreach talks to 100s of individuals in settings from elementary school classrooms to science museums to retirement communities focused on a range of ages.

Cornell Jugatae Symposium Committee

Served alongside 2 other members on the graduate student committee, organizing and planning the annual research symposium

UC Davis Arboretum

Created outreach materials to educate gardeners on how plants are used by pollinators and which native plants should be bought when establishing a pollinator garden

California Native Plant Society

Produced educational pamphlets on native butterflies and urban insects of the Sacramento, CA region

Citrus Extension Field Days

Helped lead field extension days, bringing local growers and stakeholder to field sites to learn about citrus pests and current research.

Professional Memberships _____

Entomological Society of America

California Lichen Society

Journals Reviewed For _____

Phytoparasitica

Special trainings attended _____

SETAC Pesticide Risk Assessment for Pollinators

2021

UndocuAdvocate Program for Educators

2021