Curriculum Vitae – Benjamin Gerstner

Department of Biology
University of New Mexico
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Education

2017- current Ph.D. anticipated 2023. University of New Mexico Albuquerque, NM.
Dissertation Committee: Ken Whitney (advisor), Jenn Rudgers, Helen Wearing

2013-2017 B.S. Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. University of Rochester Rochester, NY.

Research Experience

2017 - current Graduate Research Assistant – Dr. Ken Whitney – UNM
2014 - 2017 Undergraduate Research Assistant – Dr. Christian Rabeling Lab – UR

Teaching Experience

2017 - 2019 Teaching Assistant – Cell and Developmental Biology & Genetics – UNM
2015 - 2017 Teaching Assistant – Principles of Biology II – UR
2014 - 2015 Instructor – EcoReps: Introduction to Leadership and Sustainability – UR

Funding

2019 - 2022 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship, NSF - $138,000
2019 Sevilleta LTER Graduate Summer Research Fellowship, UNM - $4,000
2019 Alvin R. and Caroline G. Grove Summer Research Scholarship, UNM - $2,000
2018 Graduate Research Allocations Committee, UNM – $400
2017 - 2019 Supplemental Recruiting Assistantship, UNM - $10,000
2015 Research and Innovation Grant, UR – $1,500

Presentations

Gerstner, B., Wearing, H. & Whitney, K. The paradox of polyploidy: is variation in unreduced gamete formation the key missing factor? American Naturalist Annual Meeting. Poster January 2020, Pacific Grove, CA.

Gerstner, B., Wearing, H. & Whitney, K. The paradox of polyploidy: is variation in unreduced gamete formation the key missing factor? University of New Mexico Biology Department Annual Research Day. Poster March 2019, Albuquerque, NM.

Gerstner, B., Rabeling, C. & Dahan, R. Evolution of multiple queen breeding and social parasites in South American leaf-cutting ants. Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students. Poster November 2015, Seattle, WA.

Gerstner, B., Rabeling, C. & Dahan, R. Evolution of multiple queen breeding and social parasites in South American leaf-cutting ants. David T. Kearns Center Research Symposium. Presentation July 2015, Rochester, NY.

Publications

Farkas, T., Whitney, K., Rudgers, J. & **Gerstner, B**. Plant traits predict annual variation in biomass of an arid land species assemblage over twenty-five years. In prep.

Farkas, T., Whitney, K., Rudgers, J. & **Gerstner, B**. Plant traits predict climate sensitivity functions for aridland species. In prep.

Dahan, R., **Gerstner, B**., Bollazzi, M. & Rabeling, C. Decoupled evolution of multi-queen breeding and multiple mating in Acromyrmex leaf cutting ants. In revision.

Outreach

2019 - current Skype a Scientist: 2 classrooms, 2 states
2018 Jefferson Middle School Science Fair Judge Albuquerque, NM

Awards and Honors

2019 Susan Deese-Roberts Teaching Assistant of the Year Award, UNM – nominated
2013 - 2017 Renaissance and Global Scholar – University of Rochester