



## Moria L. Robinson

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### Education

- 2023 – present** Assistant Professor, Department of Biology, Utah State University
- 2021 – 2022** Postdoctoral Fellow, Georgia Institute of Technology (advisor: Dr. Lin Jiang)
- 2020 – 2021** Research Associate, Michigan State U. (advisor: Dr. William C. Wetzel)
- 2018 – 2020** USDA NIFA Postdoctoral Scholar, Michigan State U. (advisor: Dr. William C. Wetzel)
- 2017** PhD, Population Biology Graduate Group, UC Davis (advisor: Dr. Sharon Y. Strauss)
- 2011** B.S., Biology with High Honors, Middlebury College (advisor: Dr. Helen J. Young)

### Research Grants

- 2018** USDA NIFA Postdoctoral Fellowship (\$155,000)
- 2017** Graduate Student Association Travel Grant (\$500)
- 2016** National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant (DDIG) (\$19,198)
- 2015** UC Davis Natural Reserves Student Research Grant (\$2,400)
- 2015** Northern California Botanists Award (\$1,000)
- 2015** Center for Population Biology Research Award (\$1,600)
- 2014** Center for Population Biology Research Award (\$1,000)
- 2014** UC Davis Natural Reserves Student Research Grant (\$955)
- 2014** Davis Botanical Society Student Research Grant (\$1,500)
- 2013** Center for Population Biology Research Award (\$1,200)
- 2012** National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship (GRFP) (\$100,000)
- 2011** Middlebury College, Priscilla K. Beck Fellowship Award (\$400)
- 2010** Middlebury College, Deixler Swain Fund (\$1,900)
- 2008** Middlebury College, Palen Fund (\$1,500)

### Awards and Honors

- 2017** Award for Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching (\$500)
- 2016** Achievement Rewards for College Scholars Award (\$10,000)
- 2015** Student 10-minute talks competition winner, Entomological Society of America

- 2015** UC Davis Dean's Mentorship award (\$5000)
- 2012** Elbert C. Cole Memorial Prize for Outstanding Achievement in Biology, Middlebury College
- 2008** Middlebury College, Paul Ward '25 Prize in Writing
- 2006** North American Nature Photography Association Student Scholarship Recipient
- 2006** Earthwatch Institute Student Challenge Awards Program Scholarship Recipient

## Peer-Reviewed Publications

- Robinson, M.L.**, M. G. Weber, M. G. Freedman, E. Jordan, S. Ashlock, J. Yonenaga, and S.Y. Strauss. (2023). Macroevolution of protective coloration across caterpillars reflects relationships with host plants. *Proceedings of the Royal Society, B*, 290(1991)
- Robinson, M.L.**, T. Schillmiller, and W.C. Wetzel. (2022). A domestic plant differs from its wild relative along multiple axes of within-plant trait variability and diversity. *Ecology and Evolution*, 12(1), e8545
- Robinson, M. L.** and S.Y. Strauss. (2020). Low-resource soils promote stable topology in plant-herbivore ecological networks. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 117(4), 2043-2048.
- Wetzel, W., Kharouba, H., **Robinson, M. L.**, Holyoak, M., & Karban, R. (2019). Plant trait covariance and nonlinear averaging: a reply to Koussoroplis et al. *Rethinking Ecology*, 4(115).
- Robinson, M. L.**, & Strauss, S. Y. (2018). Cascading effects of soil type on assemblage size and structure in a diverse herbivore community. *Ecology*, 99(8), 1866-1877.
- LoPresti, E. F., **Robinson, M. L.**, Krimmel, B. A., & Charles, G. K. (2018). The sticky fruit of manzanita: potential functions beyond epizoochory. *Ecology*, 99(9), 2128-2130.
- Lopresti, E. F., Grof-Tisza, P. A., **Robinson, M. L.**, Godfrey, J., & Karban, R. (2018). Entrapped sand as a plant defence: effects on herbivore performance and preference. *Ecological Entomology*, 43(2), 154-161.
- Wetzel, W. C., Kharouba, H. M., **Robinson, M. L.**, Holyoak, M., & Karban, R. (2016). Variability in plant nutrients reduces insect herbivore performance. *Nature*, 539(7629), 425.
- LoPresti, E. F., Karban, R., **Robinson, M. L.**, Grof-Tisza, P., & Wetzel, W. (2016). The natural history supplement: furthering natural history amongst ecologists and evolutionary biologists. *The Bulletin of the Ecological Society of America*, 97(3), 305-310.
- Dyer, L. A., Wagner, D. L., Greeney, H. F., Smilanich, A. M., Massad, T. J., **Robinson, M. L.**, ... & Fredrickson, K. B. (2012). Novel Insights into Tritrophic Interaction Diversity and Chemical Ecology Using 16 Years of Volunteer-Supported Research. *American Entomologist*, 58(1), 15-19.

### In Review and Preparation:

- Robinson, M.L.**, N. Underwood, P. G. Hahn, L. A. Dyer, S. R. Whitehead, B. D. Inouye, L. N. Zehr, W.C. Wetzel, and the Herbivory Variability Collaborative Network (190 co-authors). Latitude, traits, and phylogeny predict herbivore attack variability (In prep)
- Robinson, M.L.** and S.Y. Strauss. Landscape-scale soil variation and herbivore diet breadth affect top-down control of caterpillars by parasitoids and birds (In prep)

## Presentations

\* indicates invited seminar speaker  
 \*\* indicates session organizer

- 2022** Georgia State University STEM Week (GSU Perimeter College, Atlanta, GA) \*

*To warn or to hide: The ecology and evolution of bright coloration in animals*

- 2021** Entomological Society of America Annual Meeting (Denver, CO; virtual) ★  
*Plant apparency shapes the distribution of herbivory within and among plant individuals: Data from the Herbivory Variability Network*
- 2021** University of Georgia, EDGE Seminar ★  
*From landscapes to individuals: How plant trait variation shapes species interactions across spatial scales*
- 2021** Florida State University, Ecology and Evolution Seminar Series (virtual) ★  
*From landscapes to individuals: How plant trait variation shapes species interactions across spatial scales*
- 2021** American Society of Naturalists Annual Meeting (Asilomar, CA; virtual)  
*Domestication has altered within-plant trait variability and diversity in a crop plant*
- 2020** Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting (virtual) ★★  
*Domestication selection and shifts in trait within-plant trait variability (Organized Oral Session 067)*
- 2020** Women in Science – Ecology Virtual Conference ★  
*The butterfly girl: how childhood role models and contemporary peers have shaped me as an ecologist*
- 2020** Institution of Science and Technology Austria, IST (Vienna, Austria) ★  
*Domestication selection and shifts in trait variability at the within-plant scale*
- 2020** Czech Academy of Sciences, Entomology Department Seminar Series (Ceske Budejovice, Czech Republic) *Within-plant variability: An under-explored trait mediating biotic interactions*
- 2018** Joint Conference on Evolutionary Biology (Montpelier, France)  
*Host plant architecture and evolution of aposematism in larval Lepidoptera (poster)*
- 2018** Czech Academy of Sciences, Entomology Department Seminar Series (Ceske Budejovice, Czech Republic) *When soils cascade: Effects of abiotic resources on interactions between plants, herbivores, and natural enemies*
- 2017** Gordon Research Conference on Plant-Herbivore Interactions (Ventura, CA)  
*Effects of soil heterogeneity on herbivore communities and ecological networks (poster)*
- 2017** Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting (Portland, OR)  
*Soil variation shapes herbivore-enemy interactions*
- 2016** Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting (Ft. Lauderdale, FL)  
*From soils to webs: Effects of environmental heterogeneity on herbivore communities and ecological networks*
- 2015** Entomological Society of America Annual Meeting (Minneapolis, MN)  
*Effects of environmental heterogeneity on trophic communities and structure of ecological networks (student 10-minute talks award)*
- 2011** Senior Honors Thesis Presentation, Middlebury College (Middlebury, VT)  
*Species as mosaic: Patterns of plant use by two gossamer-winged butterfly populations*
- 2009** Spring Student Symposium, Middlebury College, VT  
*Discovering the faces of diversity: Conservation and photography on the front lines of the new species search*
- 2007** Washington Butterfly Association monthly meeting, University of Washington (Seattle, WA)  
*Caterpillar diversity and defenses in La Selva, Costa Rica*

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## Teaching

- 2022** Guest Lecturer, Physics of Living Systems (BIOL4814), Georgia Institute of Technology
- 2016** Instructor of Record, Ecology and Evolution of Plant-Animal Interactions (EVE181), UC Davis

- 2013 – 14** Teaching Assistant, Evolution and Ecology (Biological Sciences 2B), UC Davis
- 2010** Teaching and Para-education Assistant, Middlebury Union Middle School
- 2008 – 10** Teaching Assistant, Introductory Biology lab, Middlebury College
- 2008 – 10** Writing Tutor, Introductory Writing Courses, Middlebury College

Training and efficacy in pedagogy:

- 2016** Participant: “Redefining Teaching: Student-Centered Strategies for Success”  
(6-week intensive workshop; Center for Educational Effectiveness [CEE], UC Davis)

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## Student Mentorship

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- 2020** Research mentor to Kalin Bayes, Michigan State University  
*Effects of leaf physical traits on the distribution of herbivory within plants*
- 2016** Research co-mentor to Anika Hamilton, EEGAP Program (UC Davis)  
*The study of host plant choice and adaptation in monarch butterfly larvae*  
(oral presentation; UC Davis-HBCU Summer Research Symposium)
- 2016** Research mentor to Lillie Oravetz (UC Davis)  
*Plant traits mediate community assembly of caterpillars and their predators after fire*
- 2015** Graduate Student Mentor, UC Davis ESA SEEDS Undergraduate Club
- 2014** Research mentor to Esther Haile (CA State University Monterey Bay)  
*The effects of nectar resources on overwintering monarch behavior*  
(poster; Sanctuary Currents Symposium, CA State University Monterey Bay)
- 2013 – 17** Mentorship of undergraduate student research assistants Stepney Racy, Angel of Love Corniel, Angela Yuen, Ann Le, Cameran McCoppin, Lillie Oravetz, Xueqin Gao, Yixue Zhu, Christopher Jason, Anna Erway, Lauren Mitchell, Samantha Ledbetter

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## Service

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**Manuscript reviewer:** American Naturalist, Ecology, New Phytologist, Functional Ecology, Proceedings of the Royal Society B., Methods in Ecology and Evolution, Biotropica, Trends in Plant Science, Ecological Entomology, Journal of Ecology, Oecologia (Publons Researcher ID: N-5951-2019)

- 2020** Session organizer, Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting. OOS 067 “Plants as Mosaics: How Trait Variability Within Plants Shapes the Ecology and Evolution of Plant-Animal Interactions”
- 2019** Grant Review Panelist, USDA NIFA Alfalfa Seed and Alfalfa Forage System (ASAFS) Program
- 2015** Organizer: UC Davis Center for Population Biology Student-led Mini-Conference: “Questions and Methods in Ecological Genetics”. 2-day conference/workshop featuring seminars, a panel discussion, and graduate student research chalk-talks with invited speakers Jill Anderson (UGA), David Lowry (MSU), Neil Tsutsui (UC Berkeley)
- 2014 – present** Invited contributor, Moth Photographer’s Group ([mothphotographersgroup.msstate.edu](http://mothphotographersgroup.msstate.edu))

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## Society Memberships

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- 2017 – present** Member, American Society of Naturalists

**2015 – present** Member, Ecological Society of America

**2011 – present** Member, Entomological Society of America

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## Non-refereed Publications and Technical Reports

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**Robinson, M.** 2013. Monarch Monitoring Report: Summary of Population Trends in Northern California Overwintering Sites. A report to The Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History, Pacific Grove, CA.

**Robinson, M.** Selected natural history photographs in: Wagner, D. L., D. F. Schweitzer, J. B. Sullivan, and R. C. Reardon. (2011). *Owlet Caterpillars of Eastern North America*. Princeton University Press.

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## Outreach

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**2016 – present** Student Application Reviewer, Earthwatch Institute IGNITE LA Science Awards Program

**2014 – present** Contributor: Bugguide (bugguide.net), Moth Photographer's Group  
(<https://mothphotographersgroup.msstate.edu/>)

**2013 – 14** Scientific Advisor: Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History monarch monitoring project

**2014 – 17** Earthwatch Institute Project Facilitator, IGNITE program, *Caterpillars and Climate Change*

**2008 – 2017** Member of Board of Directors, Discover Life in America

**2013** Earthwatch Institute Project Facilitator, *Snorkeling to Protect Reefs in the Bahamas*

**2011** Earthwatch Institute Project Facilitator, *Caterpillars and Climate Change*

**2009 – 2011** Co-founder, JUNTOS Migrant Farm Worker Outreach Program