

# Samantha Smith

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University of California, Riverside

## Education:

PhD student, UC Riverside, expected May 2022

B.S., Biology, Brigham Young University, August 2017

3.93 GPA

Evolutionary Biology, Aquatic Entomology, Entomology, Statistics 121

GRE January 2016

Verbal Reasoning; 166, 97<sup>th</sup> percentile, Quantitative Reasoning; 161, 79<sup>th</sup> percentile,

Analytical Writing; 5.0, 93<sup>rd</sup> percentile

Moscow High School, Moscow, ID, June 2011

4.0 GPA

## Research Interests:

I use the study of evolution to answer questions about insect behavior and species interactions. Specifically, during my undergrad at BYU I studied the evolution of rubyspot damselflies (Calopterygidae: Hetaerina), and am currently revising thread legged assassin bugs (Reduviidae: Emesinae) in the Weirach lab at UCR.

## Research Experience:

Lab Assistant, Dr. Seth Bybee's Entomology Lab, BYU

Fall 2015-2017

Damselfly phylogeny (*Hetaerina*) using DNA & morphology

-Brazilian internship 2016 - Collected and studied *Hetaerina*

-Data analysis and interpretation: Geneious, IQtree, Figtree, Illustrator

-Presented data at Dragonfly Society of the Americas July 2016

Dragonfly larva rearing (*Anax junius*) - different light environments and opsins development

-Set up light treatments, established protocol for raising larva

-Trained undergraduates in the protocol

Firefly conservation (*Pyroctomena dispersa*) - Comparing habitats of Utah fireflies

- Conducted field work, collected field and sample data summer of 2016

- Hypothesized cause of population decline to be light pollution

Lab Assistant, Dr. Nelson's Entomology Lab, BYU

Fall 2012, fall 2014

Collected aquatic insects; sorted samples for museum

## Work Experience:

TA, Bio230: Plant Diversity, BYU

Fall 2015

Taught lab once a week; graded quizzes and lab reports

Lab Assistant, Dr. Arron Carter's Winter Wheat Breeding Program, Washington State University

Summer 2015

Assisted PhD students with research, worked in wheat plots

TA, Bio220A: Animal Diversity BYU

Samantha Smith

Winter 2015

Graded reports; held reviews

TA, Bio100: Intro to Biology, BYU

Fall 2014

Graded research papers; tutored students; gave lab lectures

Lab Assistant, Sports Science Laboratory, Washington State University

Summer 2010, summer 2011

Set up database; measured bat performance; used Excel to reduce data

**International fieldwork:**

Brazil, Manaus, Belem, Sao Paulo summer 2017

Cameroon, Boamir summer 2017

**Fellowships:**

Robert M. Squires Evolution Fellowship 2017 (\$2200)

Provost Research Fellowship, UC Riverside

NICE NRT Fellow, National Science Foundation Fall 2017-Fall 2020

**Grants:**

ORCA grant 2015- *Assessment of biodiversity on Mount Timpanogos with a focus on flies, Diptera: Agromyzidae* (\$1500)

ORCA grant winter 2016 – *Phylogeny of Hetaerina (Odonata: Calopterygidae)* (\$1500)

**Presentations:**

Oral Presentation, “Interspecific Competition in Hetaerina Damselflies”, II BecInt, II Behavioral Ecology and Conservation Symposium at Uberlandia, Brazil 2017

Oral Presentation, “Phylogeny of Hetaerina, Rubyspotted Damselflies”, Dragonfly Association of the Americas 2016

Poster, “Phylogeny of Rubyspot Damselflies (Calopterygidae: Hetaerina)”, Brigham Young University 2017