

# Robert Luke Kopas Kresslein

751 Spruce Street, Riverside, CA 92507 | [rkres001@ucr.edu](mailto:rkres001@ucr.edu) | (443) 896-7979

## EDUCATION

Ph.D., Entomology July 2017–Present (Expected Graduation 2022)  
University of California, Riverside, California

- Systematics, Phylogenetics, Taxonomy
- GPA: 3.94/4.0

B.A., Biology May 2015  
Kenyon College, Gambier, Ohio

## RESEARCH

University of California, Riverside October 2017–Present  
Department of Entomology, Advisor: John Heraty, Ph.D.

Graduate Student Researcher

- Systematics of Aphelinidae (Hymenoptera: Chalcidoidea): Phylogenetic reconstruction, taxonomic revision and evolutionary investigation into ancestral host association, and lineage diversification
- Curation of the research collection of Chalcidoidea with a focus on Aphelinidae (Hymenoptera: Chalcidoidea), and curation of the University of California, Riverside insect teaching collection
- Collaborator for the Chalcidoidea Taxonworks project with a focus on Aphelinidae

United States National Museum of Natural History May 2015–June 2017

USDA, Systematic Entomology Lab, Advisor: Matt Buffington Ph.D.

Academic Appointee

- Research on the morphology and systematics of parasitic Hymenoptera, using scanning electron microscopy, extended focus imaging, a microscopic dissection
- Curation of collections of parasitic Hymenoptera from the eastern United States, and Madagascar

The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio May 2014–August 2014

OARDC, Agricultural Landscape Ecology Lab, Advisor: Mary Gardiner Ph.D.

Undergraduate Field Research Assistant (REU)

- Research on arthropod gamma diversity in abandoned lots in Cleveland, Ohio.
- Collection and identification of arthropods from urban and rural localities including urban lots, soybean fields, and hops fields
- Creation of a Geographic Information System of Cuyahoga County Ohio

Kenyon College September 2011–January 2014

Department of Biology, Advisor: Joan Slonczewski Ph.D.

Undergraduate Student Researcher

- Research on the adaptive lab evolution of *Escherichia coli* under moderate acid stress

## PUBLICATIONS

Harden, M.M., He, A., Creamer, K., Clark, M.W., Hamdallah, I., Martinez II, K.A., **Kresslein, R.L.**, Bush, S. and Slonczewski, J.L., 2015. Acid-adapted strains of *Escherichia coli* K-12 obtained by experimental evolution. *Applied Environmental Microbiology*. 81, 1932–41.

## FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS

Robert and Peggy van den Bosch Scholarship (University of California). 2020

Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award (University of California, Riverside). 2020

Dean's Distinguished Fellowship (University of California, Riverside). 2017.

## INVITED PRESENTATIONS

**Kresslein, R.L.**, and Heraty, J.M., Slicing the Gordian knot: a phylogenetic analysis of the sub-familial relationships of Aphelinidae (Hymenoptera: Chalcidoidea) with a focus on the genus *Encarsia* Förster. Entomological Society of America: Pacific Branch Meeting. Spokane, Washington. April 20, 2020 (Cancelled).

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**Kresslein, R.L.**, The search for *O. coloradensis*: odyssey to the west. Meeting of the Friends of the Entomology Research Museum Autumn Meeting. Riverside, California. December 13, 2017.

## CONTRIBUTED PRESENTATIONS

**Kresslein, R.L.**, Ulmer, J. and Heraty, J.M., Entomological dentistry: novel morphology of the parasitoid wasp mandible. Annual Meeting of the Entomological Society of America. St. Louis, Missouri. November 17–20, 2019.

**Kresslein, R.L.** and Heraty, J.M., Whitefly warfare: phylogenetic insights into the aleyrodid parasitoid *Encarsia* Förster (Hymenoptera: Aphelinidae). Annual Meeting of the Entomological Society of America. Vancouver, Canada. November 11–14, 2018.

**Kresslein, R.L.** and Heraty, J.M., Whitefly warfare: phylogenetic insights into the aleyrodid parasitoid *Encarsia* Förster (Hymenoptera: Aphelinidae). University of California, Riverside, Department of Entomology Student Seminar Day. Riverside, California. September 19, 2018.

## POSTER PRESENTATIONS

**Kresslein, R.L.** and Heraty, J.M., A light at the end of the tunnel: the preliminary resolution of the chalcidoid family Aphelinidae (Hymenoptera). University of California, Riverside, Department of Entomology Student Seminar Day. Riverside, California. September 18, 2019.

**Kresslein, R.L.**, Buffington, M.L. and Heraty, J.M., A root canal of minuscule proportions: insights into phylogeny by wasp tooth morphology. Annual Meeting of the Entomological Society of America. Denver, Colorado. November 5–8, 2017.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant – Entomology 010 (2 quarters) spring 2020, fall 2019  
University of California, Riverside, Professor: Richard Redak Ph.D.

- “Natural History of Insects” – Prepared, taught and graded five discussion sections (165 students) weekly, attended lecture, held office hours, met and communicated grades to the instructor

Teaching Assistant – Entomology 112 (2 quarters) winter 2020, 2019  
University of California, Riverside, Professors: John Heraty Ph.D. and Mark Springer Ph.D.

- “Systematics” – Prepared, taught and graded two discussion sections (60 students) weekly, attended lecture, held office hours and met and communicated grades to instructors

Teaching Assistant – Entomology 100 spring 2019  
University of California, Riverside, Professor: Thomas Perring Ph.D.

- “General Entomology” – Prepared, taught and graded two laboratory sections (40 students) weekly, attended lecture, held office hours and met and communicated grades to instructor

Teaching Assistant – Biology 109-110Y (3 semesters) spring 2015, fall 2014, 2013  
Kenyon College, Professors: Jennifer McMahon Ph.D., Andrew Kerkhoff Ph.D.

- “Introduction to Experimental Biology” – Assisted with instructor of one laboratory section alongside professor (16 students), held help sessions, and met for weekly prep meeting with professor

## MEMBERSHIPS

Friends of the Entomological Research Museum

December 2017–Present

Natural History Collections Care Network

November 2017–Present

Center for Integrative Biological Collections

November 2017–Present

International Society of Hymenopterists

October 2017–Present

Entomological Society of America (SysEB Section)

October 2017–Present

## SERVICE AND SYNERGISTIC ACTIVITIES

Inclusivity Committee

June 2020–Present

University of California, Riverside

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- Voting Member
- Spoke on behalf of the graduate student body concerning issues of diversity and inclusivity as it pertains to race, sex and gender
- Helped develop and fundraise diversity and inclusivity scholarship (\$25K) for underrepresented students in entomology.

Linnean Games Team Member November 2019–Present  
University of California, Riverside

- Competed in the “Linnean Games”, an quiz-bowl style competition focus on entomologically related trivia, during the Annual Meeting of the Entomological Society of America and Pacific Branch meetings

Instructional and Student Affairs Committee Member July 2019–Present  
University of California, Riverside

- Voting Member
- Spoke on behalf of the graduate student body concerning matters of instruction, course development, graduate program review, admissions process, student funding, and graduation

Natural History Museums Club November 2017–Present  
University of California, Riverside

- Voting Member
- Treasurer (June 2019–Present)
- President (November 2017–June 2019)
- Creation of opportunities for undergraduates to gain curatorial experience in natural history museums
- Creation of a forum for undergraduates, graduate students, faculty and staff to interface on the topic of natural history collections

UCR Entomology Graduate Student Association October 2017–Present  
University of California, Riverside

- Voting Member
- Vice President (October 2018–June 2019)
- Social Committee Chair (October 2019–Present)
  - Organized quarterly social event for the Department of Entomology
- Merchandise Committee Chair (October 2019–Present)
  - Organized the designing, advertising, purchasing and sale of graduate student merchandise
- Museum Committee Member (October 2018–June 2019)

UCR Entomology Outreach Program October 2017–Present  
University of California, Riverside

- Education of the public through direct interaction with researchers, live insects and insect displays
- Presenter at the Annual Riverside Insect Fair (2018–2020)

## **UNDERGRADUATE MENTORSHIP**

Heraty Lab  
University of California, Riverside

- Tiffany Domer, BS (Biology) February 2019–June 2020
- Evie Alberico, BS (Biology) February 2020–Present