# LAURA ESTELLE HARMON

CURRICULUM VITAE

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# **EDUCATION**

**PhD** University of California—Riverside, Entomology Oct. 2020–Present

MS University of Florida, Entomology and Nematology Jan. 2017–May 2019

Thesis: "Permethrin use on deer farms in Florida, potential for sequestering in deer and influence on resistance development in *Culicoides*."

Advisor: Dr. Emma Weeks

BS University of Florida, Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Aug. 2012–Dec. 2016
Graduated Summa Cum Laude
Minored in Entomology and Nematology

## HONORS AND AWARDS

## **Graduate Student Virtual Poster Competition**

2017

Entomological Society of America Medical Urban and Veterinary Entomology category, Second place

#### RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

**Thesis**, University of California, Riverside, CA 2020–Present

Advisor: Dr. Alec Gerry

**Thesis**, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 2017–2019

Advisor: Dr. Emma Weeks

• Evaluate use and perception of pesticides for weed, arthropod, and *Culicoides* management on deer farms in the state of Florida

- Determine if permethrin applied for arthropod-management is sequestering in farmed deer
- Determine if there is insecticide resistance in field caught *Culicoides*

# University of Florida, Gainesville, FL

2016-2017

Lab Technician, Kaufman Lab, Entomology and Nematology

- Sexual differentiation of flies
- Assisting in rearing and maintenance of fly colonies
- Assisting in bioassays to determine semiochemical effectiveness on horn flies and stable flies

Natural Area Teaching Lab Wildlife Intern, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL Intern, Natural Area Teaching Lab (NATL)

• Assessing presence of animals in NATL

# Independent Research, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL

2015-2017

Researcher, Weeks Lab, Entomology and Nematology

• Studying possible mechanisms behind clustering of eggs in the common bed bug

## **Independent Research**, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL

2015-2016

Researcher, McCleery Lab, Wildlife Ecology and Conservation

• Assessing response of marsh rabbit willingness to feed in response to native and invasive predator presence

## **IFAES Summer Research Internship**, University of Florida,

2015-2015

Gainesville, FL

**Intern**, Weeks Lab, Entomology and Nematology

• Investigating clustering in the common bed bug

# **Bird song analysis**, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL

2015-2015

Analyst, Sieving Lab, Wildlife Ecology and Conservation

• Assisting graduate student in analyzing bird song data

 Using Avisoft software to separate bird songs and calls of tropical species for use in training software to identify birds without human aid

#### TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida

Jan. 2017-May 2017

**Teaching Assistant**, Entomology and Nematology

• Assist students with academics, lecture on entomology topics, assist with grading of assignments, exams, and projects.

## PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED LECTURES

**Invited speaker,** "Pesticide perception and use on deer farms in Florida and its influence on resistance development in *Culicoides* (Diptera: Ceratopogonidae)," Entomological Society of America 66<sup>th</sup> Joint Annual Meeting. MUVE section. "Entomology without boarders: Tackling insecticide resistance through science, extension, and collaboration." November 11<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

**Poster presentation,** "Permethrin sequestering in the serum of white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*)," Wildlife Disease Association 67<sup>th</sup> Annual International Conference, August 5<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

**Graduate student virtual poster competition**, "Determining the lethal concentrations of permethrin for a laboratory reared colony of *Culicoides sonorensis* (Diptera: Ceratopogonidae)," Entomological Society of America 65<sup>th</sup> Joint Annual Meeting. MUVE section. November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

**Poster presentation**, "*Culicoides*, pesticides, and deer health," Cervidae Health Research Initiative: 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Science Symposium, March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

**Undergraduate student oral presentation competition**, "Egg clustering in the common bed bug (*Cimex lectularius*)," Entomological Society of America Southeastern Branch Meeting, March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

#### **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

Graduate Student Mentorship Program, University of California—Riverside, 2020–Present

Student Mentee, Oct. 2020–Present

**Insects 4 Inclusion, University of California—Riverside**, 2020–Present

Member, 2020–Present

**Entomology Graduate Student Association, University of California—Riverside**, 2020–Present

Member, 2020–Present

**2020 Cohort Outreach Coordinator**, 2020–Present

LGBTRC, University of California—Riverside, 2020–Present

Member, 2020–Present

**Entomology and Nematology Student Organization**, 2017-2019

**Seminar Lunch Coordinator**, 2017–2017. Coordinate with seminar speakers and graduate students to plan seminar lunches.

**Member**, June 2017-May 2019

Wildlife Disease Association. 2017–Present

**Student Member** 

Wildlife Disease Association Student Chapter, 2017–2019

**Secretary**, 2017–2018. Communicate with members and public about upcoming events and organization news. Maintain social media accounts.

**Event coordinator**, 2018–2019. Organize events and fundraisers.

**Entomological Society of America**, 2016–Present

Student member.

#### **PUBLICATIONS**

Harmon, L. E, K. A. Sayler, N. D. Burkett-Cadena, S. M. Wisely, and E. N. I. Weeks. **2020.** Management of plant and arthropod pests by deer farmers in Florida. J. Int. Pest Management. 11. DOI: 10.1093/jipm/pmaa011

## **OTHER EXPERIENCE**

Fiscal Office Assistantship, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL

Entomology and Nematology, 2017–2019

 Process paperwork and organize fiscal information of faculty, graduate students, and post-doctorates

Volunteer, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL

Natural Area Teaching Lab, 2017–2019

Maintain social media page

#### **SKILLS**

- Analysis in RStudio: univariate statistics, multivariate statistics
- Necropsy techniques
- Molecular techniques for insecticide resistance detection
- Culicoides species identification
- Insect identification
- Colony maintenance and rearing: mosquito, horn fly, house fly, stable fly, bed bug
- Determining the sex of flies and bed bugs
- Center for disease control and prevention bottle bioassays
- GC-MS/MS operation