

Robert Kenyon Straser

University of California, Riverside
900 University Ave, Riverside, CA 92521
Tel: 951.733.3339 • Email: rstra005@ucr.edu

Education

- Present* **Ph.D.** Entomology, University of California, Riverside
 Advisor: Dr. Houston Wilson
- 2015* **M.Res.** Biodiversity, Evolution and Conservation, University College London (UCL), London, UK
 Distinction in Graduate Research, First Class Honors
- 2013* **B.Sc.** Ecology and Biodiversity, Humboldt State University, Arcata, CA

Publications

- 2019* Morel, A. C., Hirons, M., Adu Sasu, M., Quaye, M., Adu-Bredu, S., Asare, R., Boyd, E., Malhi, J., McDermott, C.L., Robinson, E.J.Z., **Straser, R.** & Norris, K., (2019). The ecological limits to poverty alleviation in an African forest-agriculture landscape. *Frontiers in Sustainable Food Systems* 3, 57.

Presentations

- 2020* **Straser R.**, Talamas E., Daane K. & Wilson H. Laboratory evaluation of *Gryon pennsylvanicum* as potential biological control agent of *Leptoglossis zonatus*. Oral pres. ESA National Conference.
- Stahl J., Wilson H., **Straser R.** & Daane K. The potential of irrigated cover crops as a management tool for stink bugs in organic pistachios. Oral pres. ESA National Conference, virtual.
- Straser R.** & Cohen H. Campus garden hedgerow to support healthy communities and farming ecosystems. Poster, CHESC conference, virtual.
- 2019* **Straser R.** Biological control and plant chemical ecology. Guest Lecturer, ENTM010 Natural History of Insects, UCR.
- Straser R.**, Daane K. & Wilson SH. Utility of trap crops to monitor hemipteran pests and suppress damage in California pistachios. Oral pres., ESA Pacific Branch Conference, San Diego, CA.
- 2018* **Straser R.**, Daane K. & Wilson SH. Potential use of trap crops to suppress pest damage and enhance biological control in orchards. Poster pres., ESA National Conference, Vancouver, BC.
- Straser R.**, Wang X., Yang M., Dahlquist-Willard R. & Daane K. Developing sustainable pest management programs for Southeast Asian farms in California's Central Valley. Oral pres., ESA Pac. Branch Conference.
- Straser R.** Agroecological Intensification: Bringing lessons learned to modern production. Invited presenter, Earth Week Research Symposium, UC Riverside.
- Straser R.**, Wang X., Yang M., Yang P., Dahlquist-Willard R. & Daane K. Developing sustainable pest management programs for diversified Southeast Asian farms in California's Central Valley. Poster, ESA Int'l. Branch Virtual Conference.
- 2017* **Straser R.** & Daane K., Development of sustainable pest management for Southeast Asian specialty crops. Oral pres., Kearney Agricultural Research and Extension Center, CA.
- Straser R.**, Dahlquist-Willard R, Yang M & Daane K., Sustainable pest management programs for Southeast Asian farmers in CA's Central Valley. Oral pres., ESA Pac. Branch Conference, Portland, OR.
- Hochman-Adler V., **Straser R.**, Dervishian G. & Daane K., Overwintering control for vine mealybug in vineyards using HPLC methodologies. Poster, ESA Pac. Branch Conference, Portland, OR.
- Yang M., **Straser R.** Shrestha A. & Daane K., Common weeds influence insect communities and crop yields in Hmong agricultural landscapes. Poster, ESA Pac. Branch Conference, Portland, OR.
- 2016* **Straser R.** & Daane K., Sustainable management practices for Southeast Asian crop cultivation; a focus on biocontrol ecology. Oral presentation at Specialty Crop Conference; Fresno, CA.

- 2015 **Straser R.**, Dynamics of pollination as influenced by the composition of cocoa agroforest landscapes. Oral presentation at the Environmental Change Institute: University of Oxford; Oxford, UK.
- Straser R.**, Exploring the ecological limitations in Ghanaian agroforest cocoa cultivation. Oral presentation at the Institute of Zoology Speed Talks; London, UK.
- Fitzmaurice A. & **Straser R.**, Population Modelling and Analysis, Undergraduate Workshop. Oral presentation at the Institute of Zoology; London, UK.
- Straser R.**, Improved understanding to the global trends in avian populations: a case study on East Africa. Oral presentation at the Zoological Society of London; London, UK.
- 2014 Tiller L. & **Straser R.**, Land use change fueling human-elephant conflicts in the Transmara District, Kenya. Oral presentation at WWF Kenya Wildlife Conflicts Workshop, Narok, Kenya.
- 2012 **Straser R.**, Munkhzul T., Miettinen A. & Pickles R., Birch forest fragmentation and decline in Hustai National Park, Mongolia. Oral presentation to Board of Hustai National Park, Mongolia.

Funding

- 2020 UC Global Food Initiative Fellowship, \$3000
Western SARE Graduate Student Grant, \$24,796
Robert van den Bosch Scholarship in Biological Control, \$25,000
- 2019 CDFA Healthy Soils Program, \$8,500
UC Global Food Initiative Fellowship, \$3500
- 2018 Bill and Jane Fischer Vegetation Management Scholarship, \$1000
Milton D. and Mary M. Miller Plant Science Award, \$1500
Davies Gunther Award, University of California Riverside, \$2500
Corliss Knapp Engle Scholarship, Garden Club of America, \$3000
- 2017 Milton D. and Mary M. Miller Plant Science Award, \$2500
University of California, Riverside, Dean's Distinguished Fellowship
- 2015 Master's Independent Research Fund, University College London, £2000 (\$3200)

Outreach and Extension

- 2019 Wilson, H., Ozeran, R., Gordon, P. & **Straser, R.** "A river runs through it: UC scientists teach rural youth about river health." UCANR Knowledge Stream Blog.
<https://ucanr.edu/blogs/blogcore/postdetail.cfm?postnum=38713>
- 2018 **Straser R.**, Power N., Husein D. & Chien I. Biological Control & Integrative Pest Management Discussion Panel, 4th Annual Riverside Insect Fair.
Straser R., Baker A., Cecala J., & Masonick P. Insect Biodiversity & Conservation Discussion Panel, 4th Annual Riverside Insect Fair.
- 2017 Dalquist-Willard R., **Straser R.** & Daane K. Identifying and monitoring pest and beneficial insects in SE Asian specialty crops. UC Cooperative Extension Workshop, Fresno, CA.
Straser R. & Daane K., Insects and agroecology: methods in sampling and identification of pest and beneficial species. Oral pres. to STEM students, Kearney Agricultural Research Center, CA.
- 2016 **Straser R.**, Dahlquist-Willard R, Yang M & Daane K., Ecology and application of parasitoid insects as biocontrol agents in Southeast Asian crops. UC Cooperative Extension Workshop, Fresno, CA.

Professional Reports

- 2018 Daane K.M., **Straser, R.K.**, Hochman-Adler, V., Fonseca, N., Yang, M. N., and Ceja, J. G., 2018. Control tactics of blackwidow spiders table grapes. 2017-18 Annual Report, California Table Grape Commission. Fresno, CA. 8 pp.
- 2017 **Straser R.**, Dahlquist-Willard R, & Daane K., Developing sustainable pest management programs for Southeast Asian farms in California's Central Valley. Annual Report, 2016-2017.
Hall, D., Farman, D., Millar, J., Serrano, J., McElfresh, J. S., **Straser, R.**, Fonseca, N., and Daane, K. M. 2017. Identification and optimization of sex pheromones of *Lygus hesperus* as practical lures for pheromone-baited traps or use in control programs, Final Research Report, 2015-2017.

Daane K.M., **Straser, R.K.**, Hochman-Adler, V., Fonseca, N., Yang, M. N., and Ceja, J. G., 2017. Control tactics of blackwidow spiders table grapes. 2016-17 Annual Report, California Table Grape Commission. Fresno, CA. 8 pp.

Other Research Experience

- 2016-17* **Laboratory Manager**, University of California, Berkeley
PI - Dr. Kent Daane, Department of Environmental Science, Policy, and Management
- Coordinate with PI on all activities and operations of the group
 - Advise and mentor students and staff on project designs and data collection
 - Assist PI and post-doctoral staff on data analysis and manuscript publications
- Select Projects:**
- Sustainable management strategies for Southeast Asian specialty crops
 - Sustainable control methods for black-widow spiders in California vineyards
 - Mating disruption techniques for improving pest monitoring programs

- 2014* **Research Assistant**, Elephant Matters Project, Transmara District, Kenya
- Trained and supervised field scouts on data collection protocols
 - Built working relationships with community to expand project reach
 - Organized staff schedules and salaries

Teaching Experience

- Teaching Assistant**, University of California Riverside
- 2020* ENTM129: Biological Control
- 2019* ENTM020: Bees and Beekeeping
 ENTM050: Evidence of Evolution
 ENTM010: Natural History of Insects
- 2018* ENTM010: Natural History of Insects

Professional Service

- 2019* UC Global Food Initiative, UCR Ambassador
 UCR Graduate Student Association of Sustainability Committee Member
 UCR R'Garden Committee Member
- 2018* UCR Entomology Technology and Social Media Committee Member

Memberships

- 2019-20* Graduate Student Association of Sustainability, UC Riverside
- 2017-20* Center for Conservation Biology, UC Riverside
 Association of Applied IPM Ecologist
 Ecological Society of America
 Entomological Society of America
- 2014-17* British Ecological Society
- Conservation Ecology Special Interest Group
 - Tropical Ecology Special Interest Group