

Mari A. West

Department of Entomology • University of California, Riverside • Riverside, CA 92521
Email: mwest008@ucr.edu

EDUCATION

- 2016-present **Ph.D. Candidate** in Entomology (in progress) **GPA: 3.96**
University of California, Riverside
- 2010-2014 **B.Sc.** in Animal Science *with honors* **GPA: 3.39**
Cornell University • College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

PROFESSIONAL AND RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2019-present **Ph.D. Candidate** • University of California, Riverside
Purcell Lab • Entomology Department • Riverside, CA
- 2016-2019 **Graduate Student Researcher** • University of California, Riverside
Purcell Lab • Entomology Department • Riverside, CA
- 2015 **Research Assistant** • Biodiversity Research Institute
Loon Chick Relocation Project • Waterville, MN
- 2014-2015 **Volunteer** • US Fish and Wildlife Service
Crazy Ant Strike Team • Honolulu, HI & Johnston Atoll, NWR
- 2014 **Research Assistant** • Biodiversity Research Institute
Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation • Adirondack Park, NY
- 2012-2014 **Undergraduate Research Assistant** • Cornell University
Rayor Lab • Entomology Department • Ithaca, NY
- 2013-2014 **Undergraduate Research Assistant** • Cornell University
Goodale Lab • Ecology & Evolutionary Biology Department • Ithaca, NY
- 2013 **Research Assistant** • The Loon Project
Rhineland, WI
- 2012 **Intern** • United States Army, Fort Leonard Wood Veterinary Hospital
Fort Leonard Wood, MO

PUBLICATIONS

- Tawdros, S., **West, M.**, & Purcell. (2020). Scaling relationships in *Formica* ants with continuous worker size variation. *Insectes Sociaux*, 67(4), pp.463-472.
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s00040-020-00779-0>
- West, M.** & Purcell, J. (2020). Task partitioning in ants lacking discrete morphological worker subcastes. *Behavioral Ecology and Sociobiology*, 74: 66.
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s00265-020-02845-w>
- Sosiak, C.E., **West, M.**, & Glasier, J.R. (2020). First record and new host record of the obligate dulotic ant, *Polyergus bicolor* (Hymenoptera: Formicidae), in Alberta, Canada. *The Canadian Field-Naturalist*, 133(4), pp.309-312.
<https://doi.org/10.22621/cfn.v133i4.2381>
- Hamideh, J., **West, M.**, & Purcell, J. (2019). Head width is correlated with learning ability in *Formica* ants. *UC Riverside Undergraduate Research Journal*, 13, pp. 21-28.

- Fisher, K.*, **West, M.***, Lomeli, A.M., Woodard, S.H., & Purcell, J. (2019). Are societies resilient? Challenges faced by social insects in a changing world. *Insectes Sociaux*, 66(1), pp. 5-13. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00040-018-0663-2>
- Hale, A., Bougie, T., Henderson, E., Sankovitz, M., **West, M.**, & Purcell, J. (2018). Notes on hunting behavior of the spider *Euryopsis californica* Banks, 1904 (Araneae: Theridiidae), a novel predator of *Veromessor pergandei* (Mayr, 1886) harvester ants (Hymenoptera: Formicidae). *The Pan-Pacific Entomologist*, 94(3), pp.141-146. <https://doi.org/10.3956/2018-94.3.141>

*authors contributed equally

ORCID identifier: 0000-0001-5828-7639

FELLOWSHIPS

- 2021 Dissertation Year Program Award • **\$14,400 USD**
- 2017-2020 NRT-Integrated Computational Entomology Fellowship • **\$153,716 USD**
National Science Foundation • University of California, Riverside
- 2016-2021 Chancellor's Distinguished Fellowship • **\$7,000 USD**
Graduate Division • University of California, Riverside
- 2016-2018 Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship • **\$60,000 USD**
- Declined** National Science Foundation • University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

GRANTS, AWARDS, AND HONORS

- 2018 Harry Shorey Award • **\$3,500 USD**
Entomology Department • University of California, Riverside
- 2017-2018 Alberta Conservation Association Grants in Biodiversity • **\$15,010 CAD**
- 2017 Graduate Student Oral Presentation Competition, second place
Entomology Department • University of California, Riverside

TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIPS

- 2020 ENTM 060W: Communication in Life Sciences
- 2019 ENTM 010: Natural History of Insects

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

- West, M.** and J. Purcell. Does worker size influence task performance?. UC Riverside Department of Entomology Student Seminar Day. Riverside, CA. Sept. 2020. Poster & Lightening Talk.
- West, M.** and J. Purcell. Task performance in ants lacking distinct morphological worker subcastes. Southern California Animal Behavior (SoCAB) Conference. San Diego, CA. Feb. 2020. Oral.
- West, M.** and J. Purcell. Does worker size influence task performance?. UC Riverside Department of Entomology Student Seminar Day. Riverside, CA. Sept. 2019. Oral.
- West, M.** and J. Purcell. Does worker size influence task performance?. UC Riverside Department of Entomology Student Seminar Day. Riverside, CA. Sept. 2018. Poster.

- West, M.** and J. Purcell. What's size got to do with it? Investigating associations between size and worker task. International Union for the Study of Social Insects Congress. Guaruja, Brazil. Aug. 2018. Oral.
- West, M.** and J. Purcell. What's size got to do with it? Investigating associations between size and worker task. Southern California Animal Behavior (SoCAB) Conference. Los Angeles, CA. Feb. 2017. Oral.
- West, M.** and J. Purcell. Investigating the social organization and population structure of two broadly sympatric, cryptic species. Entomological Society of America Meeting. Denver, CO. Nov. 2017. Oral.
- West, M.** and J. Purcell. What's size got to do with it? Investigating associations between size and worker task. UC Riverside Department of Entomology Student Seminar Day. Riverside, CA. Sept. 2017. Oral.
- West, M.** and L. S. Rayor. Colony inheritance and fights to the death among sisters in a prolonged subsocial spider. International Society for Behavioral Ecology. New York City, NY. Aug. 2014. Oral

UNDERGRADUATES MENTORED

Purcell Lab, UC Riverside: Alyssa Canova, Kiera Donoghue, Jeneane Hamideh, Shirley Tawdros, Zaara Said, Stephanie Loyola, Shukerrah Palmer, Erin Beck, Jorge Piche Perez, Rameen Shahzad-Ghajar.

University of Calgary: Christine Sosiak

OUTREACH AND SERVICE

2021	Workshop Leader • Six Legs CV Workshop • UCR
2020	Workshop Leader • Six Legs Reading Workshop • UCR
2020	Invited Speaker • Six Legs Career Symposium • Riverside City College
2017-2019	Invited Lecturer • Biology Lab twice/year • Moreno Valley College
2016-present	UC Riverside Entomology Outreach Program • 150+ hours
2011-2013	Volunteer • Insectapalooza • Entomology Department • Cornell
2012-2013	Volunteer • New York State Fair, 4H

SYNERGISTIC ACTIVITIES

UAW 2865 TA Union • UC Riverside • Head Steward (2020-present)

Entomology Graduate Student Association • UC Riverside

Seminar Committee Representative (2018-2020), Fundraising & Events

Committee Member (2017-present), Social Committee Co-chair (2016-2019)

Entomological Society of America, student member

International Society for the Study of Social Insects, student member

MANUSCRIPTS REVIEWED

Journal of Arachnology (2), Bulletin of Entomological Research (1), Behavioral Ecology and Sociobiology (1), Royal Society of Open Science (1), Insectes Sociaux (1), Journal of Insect Behavior (1)

TRAINING, WORKSHOPS, AND DEVELOPMENT

Mari West CV

2016 Software Carpentry Workshop • Genomics of Adaptation to Human Contexts
Colorado State University • Fort Collins, CO.

2013 Naturalist Outreach Practicum • Cornell University • Ithaca, NY.

PERSONAL

Citizenship: United States

Languages: English (native), Spanish (basic), French (basic)

Computer Programming Experience: Python, R, Unix, JMP Statistical Software,
JWatcher, Trimble Mapping and GIS