

SHAWN T. DASH

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Education

M.S. (expected 2004) Entomology
Louisiana State University (LSU)
Advisor: Dr. Linda M. Hooper-Bùi
Thesis: *Diversity and Biogeography of Ants in Louisiana*
(*Hymenoptera: Formicidae*)

The Ant Course (2003)
Sponsored by The California Academy of Sciences, The E. O. Wilson Foundation
and The Museum of Comparative Zoology –Harvard

BS (2002) (Degree with Distinction) Entomology/Wildlife Ecology
University of Delaware (UD)
Advisor: Dr. Charles R. Bartlett
Undergraduate Research Project: *Comparison of Ant Fauna in Two*
Eastern Deciduous Forest Fragments

Awards

- 2003** LSU Recognition for Service-Learning for 16 insect displays for public education
Letter of commendation from the University.
- 2003** LSU Recognition for Service-Learning for Bluebonnet Swamp educational insect
displays. Letter of commendation from the University.
- 2002** LSU Recognition for Service-Learning for Bluebonnet Swamp Educational Insect
Display. Letter of commendation from the University
- 2002** UD Department of Entomology and Applied Ecology Faculty Award
- 2002** UD George M. WorriLOW Agricultural Scholarship (\$500.00)

Research Projects

- Master's Research: Ant Biodiversity (Hymenoptera: Formicidae) of Louisiana 2002-Present
 - Investigating biodiversity of ants in Louisiana
 - Mapping biogeographical ranges of species
 - Describing ant community structure
 - Provide community data for ant faunas for future studies especially those evaluating the impacts of invasive species (ex. Red imported fire ant *Solenopsis invicta* Buren)
 - A manual of the pestiferous and invasive ant species in Louisiana for production of extension personnel and pest control operators (text & web based)
 - Development of online key for public and academic use
- Independent Study: Ant diversity at Audubon Zoo (New Orleans LA) 2002
 - Investigated patterns of diversity and community composition
 - Examined number and success of non-native species at the Zoo
 - Developed species list for the Zoo (13 species present, examined 425 specimens)
- Independent Study: Ant diversity and food preference in Spanish Town District of Baton Rouge, Louisiana 2002 - present
 - Curated ants from four years of samples (1200 specimens)
 - Identified ants to generic or specific taxonomic level (15 species 987 specimens)
 - Data entry and analysis on food preference
- Senior Thesis: Comparison of Ant Fauna in Two Eastern Deciduous Forest Fragments June 2001-2002
 - Applied components of island biogeography theory to ant communities in two forest fragments
- Undergraduate Studies: Species list of ants of Delaware January 2000-2002
 - Utilization and expansion of University's insect reference collection
 - Two years of extensive collection and identification of ants in Delaware
- Field Research: Ants of Serpentine Barren Habitats, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife and Heritage Division June 2000-August 2000
 - Investigated basic ecology of the Alleghany mound building ant in a Serpentine barren habitat
 - Investigated myrmecophilic relationship between the Mound -building ants and state-endangered Edward's Hair streak

- Undergraduate Research: Mate selection by female Striped Cucumber Beetles February 1999-May 1999
Investigated the selective devices utilized by females to accept male mounting behavior and spermatophore acceptance

Research Skills

- Accomplished in use of dichotomous keys
- Proficient at identification of:
 - North American Birds (sight and song)
 - Reptiles and Amphibians (frogs by calls)
 - Insects (sight identification of families)
 - Mosquitoes of medical Importance
 - Ants of Eastern North America
 - Tiger beetles of Eastern North America
 - Aquatic Invertebrates
 - Mammals of Eastern North America
- Competence in maintaining/curating insect collections
- Familiar with identification of plants
- Familiar with preparation of botanical specimens
- Experience with vegetation sampling
- Comfortable with basic laboratory techniques
- Basic familiarity with GIS, Arc View 3.x
- Familiar with Endnote programming for literature database
- Competence in Biota database
- Capable with Microsoft Computing Applications (Word, Excel, PowerPoint)

Presentations

S. T. Dash and L. M. Hooper-Bùi 2004 “Ants: The Little Things that Rule the World” Louisiana State University Science Saturdays Lecture Series

Dash S. T. and M. A. Seymour. 2004 “Interesting Insects: a parade through biodiversity”. Our Lady of Mercy Elementary School Science Club, Baton Rouge, LA

Dash S. T. 2003 “Insect Diversity”- Taxonomy and Ecology Talk. Focused on the biodiversity of insects Highland Road Park Observatory, Baton Rouge, LA

Dash S. T. 2003 “Insect Safari”- locate insect species to illustrate diversity and how to identify insects from other creatures with a special focus on ants Bottomland Hardwood Forest Walking Trail; Highland Road Park Observatory , Baton Rouge, LA

Dash S. T. 2002 “Comparison of Ant Fauna (HYMENOPTERA: FORMICIDAE) in Two Eastern Deciduous Forest Fragments” poster and talk University of Delaware

Class Presentations

Dash S. T. 2003 “What the Hell is That? Explorations in Basic Morphology of a Nearctic Fulgorid” (course requirement) Entomology 7014

Dash S. T. 2003 “Dial W for Wing Evolution, The Controversy of Wing and Flight Development in Insects” Talk. Entomology 7008 Controversial topics in entomology (course requirement)

Dash S. T., M. A. Seymour & R. S Harris III. 2002 “Repelling Fire Ants (*Solenopsis invicta* Buren); Testing Home Remedies” (course requirement) Entomology 7006

Teaching Experience

Spring 2004 LSU Insect Ecology: ENTM 4099

Gave lecture on mutualism and pollination in addition to leading discussion on convolution and pollination.

Fall 2003 LSU Department of Entomology Course: ENTM 2001

Insects in the Environment. Teaching Assistant

Presented 2 lectures on preparation and curation of insect collections

Aided 26 students with identification

Presented >4 lectures on taxonomy

Fall 2002 LSU Department of Entomology Course: ENTM 2001

Insects in the Environment. Laboratory Aide

Aided in all laboratory activities

Instructed 34 students on collection preparation

Aided in insect taxonomy

Compiled relevant identification keys

Fall 2001 UD Department of Entomology and Applied Ecology Courses: ENTO 305

& ENTO 408/608 Entomology Laboratory and Field Taxonomy

Aided 44 students with basic entomology studies

Advanced taxonomy and collection preparation

Research Experience

2002-present Consulting Ant Taxonomist, LSU Department of Entomology

Curated ants (1770 specimens) from numerous holdings in the LSU Arthropod Museum

Identification of undetermined ants to genus and species for the LSU Arthropod Museum (200 specimens)

Aided fellow graduate students with generic and specific identification of ants in their research (1100 specimens)

Curation of the Red Imported Fire Ant Laboratory, Ant Reference Col.
(3000 specimens)

2001-May-September Mosquito Taxonomist, Delaware Department of Fish and Wildlife, Division of Mosquito Control
Competent at sight identification of medically important mosquitoes
Familiar with eastern mosquito species taxonomy
Accustomed with mosquito trapping techniques

2001-February-July Laboratory Coordinator, Delaware Nature Society's White Clay Creek Macro-invertebrate survey
Identified and processed specimens
Taught taxonomy to volunteers
Constructed a reference collection
Edited Stream Watch Marco invertebrate volunteer handouts
Kept records and processed data

2000-April-2002-May Assistant Insect Reference Collection Curator, UD
Proficient in insect collection methods and techniques
Familiar with general curation practices
Proficient in insect specimen preparation and preservation
Familiar with loan procedures

Professional Experience

2003-June-July Assisted three M.S. candidates: Red imported fire ant distribution in E. Baton Rouge Parish. Helped collect specimens. Collected and identified other ant species, as well as some vegetation classification

2003-October Assisted M.S. candidate: *S. invicta* effects on fauna community in pine dominated forest. Identified all ants in samples to species, present diversity data between sites. Curated voucher specimens (472) and reference collection for future research

2002-Present University of Delaware Insect Reference Collection: Collected Auchenorrhynchos Homoptera, focusing on Delphacidae, Ciixidae, and Fulgoridae (2000+)

2002-Summer University of Delaware Insect Reference Collection: Collected Formicidae, Auchenorrhynchos Homoptera, and miscellaneous Coleopteran families from Maryland

2002 University of Delaware's AG-Day: Public education on Delaware's insect fauna

- 2002** Assisted with Delaware Nature Society's macro-invertebrate and Stream Watch collection program. Sampled stream invertebrates and water chemistry
- 2001** Assisted Wilmington PD Forensic team at a crime scene with the capture and collection of insect evidence
- 2001** Research Assistant for M.S. candidate: Small Hive Beetle larva migration. Hive preparation and experiment monitoring
- 2001** Delaware Nature Society Reptile and amphibian survey, Searching the Delmarva Peninsula for herptofauna and recording species encountered
- 2001** Research Assistant for M.S. candidate: Beetle composition in eastern woodlands, black lighting, pitfall sampling and specimen preparation
- 2001** University of Delaware's AG-Day: Insect Displays, Wildlife Conservation Club in conjunction with Philadelphia Zoo
- 2000** Maryland Department of Natural Resources: Aided in the process of environmental impact reports and evaluation of endangered species and concurrence with Development Zones

Activities

LSU Entomology Club President 2003-2004

LSU Entomology Club Member. 2002-2004

University of Delaware Entomology Club Board member 2001-2002.

Wildlife Conservation Club: Treasurer 1999-2002.