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Erin A. Scheessele (*rhymes with Nestlé*)

Education

2000 - Present Oregon State University Corvallis, Oregon
Ph.D. Candidate in Zoology with Political Science minor

1995 - 1999 Duke University Durham, North Carolina
B.S. Biology with Chemistry and Classical Archaeology minors *Cum Laude*

Fellowships & Grants

Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need (GAANN) Fellowship, Oregon State University, 2000-2003.

Sigma Xi Grants In Aid of Research Award, 2003.

Declining Amphibian Population Task Force Seed Grant, 2002.

American Museum of Natural History Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Fund, 2002.

Oregon State University Department of Zoology Research Grant, 2002.

The Explorers Club Youth Activity Fund, 1998.

Research Interests

I am investigating indirect effects of ambient UV-B on amphibian life history traits via trophic interactions. I hypothesize that increased levels of ambient UV-B may result in a poorer quality diet for amphibian larvae. A lower quality diet may result in a longer time to metamorphosis and a smaller size at metamorphosis, both results being disadvantageous. I have conducted both laboratory and field experiments measuring the effect of UV-B on diet quality and diet composition as well as UV-B irradiated food on amphibian life history traits.

Since joining the Blaustein Lab at Oregon State University I have participated in research involving: mesocosm and lab experiments investigating synergies between the chytrid fungus and UV-B radiation, laboratory behavioral trials looking at effects of urea contamination on feeding and survival of four amphibian species, molecular experiments measuring photolyase repair activity in salamanders, and long term censusing of Western Toads.

Teaching Positions

Oregon State University, Instructor for **Human Ecology** (Z 348), Summers 2004, 2005.

Oregon State University, Instructor for **Animal Behavior** (Z/Bi 350), Winter 2005.

Teaching Assistantships

Oregon State University, Teaching Assistant for **Human Anatomy and Physiology**, Fall 2004, 2005, Winter and Spring 2006.

Oregon State University, Teaching Assistant for **Embryology and Development**, Spring 2004.

Oregon State University, Teaching Assistant for **Introductory Biology**, Winter 2004.

Duke University, Full-time Mentor/Teaching Assistant for **Introductory Biology**. Training involved a National Science Foundation funded teaching workshop, 1999-2000.

Presentations at Professional Meetings & Invited Symposia

Effects of UVB on tadpole diets: choice tests and growth rates. Conservation Biology. 20th Annual Meeting. San Jose, California, June 2006.

Indirect effects of ultraviolet-B radiation on amphibians: using mesocosm experiments to examine UV-B effects on trophic level interactions. Ecological Society of America. 88th Annual Meeting. Savannah, Georgia, August 2003.

Presentations cont.

Effects of urea fertilizer on juvenile amphibians. Animal Behavior Society. 38th Annual Meeting. Corvallis, Oregon, July 2001.

Integrated Research Challenge in Environmental Biology (IRCEB): Host-pathogen biology and the global decline of amphibians. Arizona State University, February 2001.

Publications

Blaustein, A.R., J.M. Romansic, **E.A. Scheessele**. 2005. Ambient levels of ultraviolet-B radiation cause mortality in juvenile western toads, *Bufo boreas*. *American Midland Naturalist*, 154(2):375-382.

Blaustein, A.R., J.M. Romansic, **E.A. Scheessele**, B.A. Han, A.P. Pessier, J.E. Longchore. 2005. Interspecific variation in susceptibility of larval anuran amphibians to the pathogenic fungus, *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis*. *Conservation Biology*, 19(5):1460-1468.

Blaustein, A.R., B. Han, B. Fasy, J. Romansic, **E.A. Scheessele**, R.G. Anthony, A. Marco, D.P. Chivers, L.K. Belden, J.M. Kiesecker, T. Garcia, M. Lizana, L.B. Kats. 2004. Variable breeding phenology affects the exposure of amphibian embryos to ultraviolet radiation and optical characteristics of natural waters protect amphibians from UV-B in the US Pacific Northwest: Comment. *Ecology*, 85(6):1747-1754.

Blaustein, A.R., A.C. Hatch, L.K. Belden, **E.A. Scheessele**, J.M. Kiesecker. 2003. Global change: challenges facing amphibians. In R. Semlitsch (ed) *Amphibian Conservation*. Smithsonian Press.

Hatch, A.C., L.K. Belden, **E.A. Scheessele**, A.R. Blaustein. 2001. Juvenile amphibians do not avoid potentially lethal levels of urea. *Environmental Toxicology & Chemistry*, 20(10):2328-2335.

Gallione, C.J., **E.A. Scheessele**, D. Reinhardt, A.J. Duits, J.N. Berg, C.J.J. Westermann, D.A. Marchuk. 2000. Two common endoglin mutations in families with hereditary hemorrhagic telangiectasia in the Netherlands Antilles: evidence for a founder effect. *Human Genetics*, 107:40-44.

Research Experiences

Oregon State University, Department of Zoology. Doctoral student. Indirect effects of ultraviolet-B radiation on amphibian larvae mediated by trophic interactions. 2000-2007

Guri, Venezuela. Field researcher. Intragroup dynamics of *Alouatta seniculus* in fragmented habitat. Advised by Dr. John Terborgh. June-July 1998.

Baylor College of Medicine, SMART Program. Summer Intern. Department of Human and Molecular Genetics. Cystic Fibrosis gene therapy research. Summer 1997.

Duke University, Department of Genetics. Lab intern, Research assistant, Independent research. Mutation analysis of hereditary hemorrhagic telangiectasia in Dutch Antilles. 1996-1999.

Blue Creek, Belize. Archaeological field researcher. Excavated Mayan ruins. Summer 1996.

Duke University, Biology Department. Field research assistant, lab assistant. Maintenance of Mexican bean beetle colony and field observations with Dr. Bill Morris. 1995-1996.

Rob and Bessie Welder Wildlife Foundation, Texas. Research assistant, intern, librarian, tour guide. Field assistance included sampling vegetation and invertebrates, setting herbivore exclusion cages, data collection, bird censusing. 1994-1995.

Professional Affiliations & Activities

Ecological Society of America
American Association for the Advancement of Science
Reviewer for *Conservation Biology*

Computing Proficiencies

Statistical packages: S-Plus, JMP, PRIMER. SigmaPlot. Adobe Photoshop & Acrobat Professional. Microsoft Windows and Mac OS X operating systems. Microsoft Office Suite, including rich use of Excel.