

PTERI DOPHYTA

CURRICULUM VITAE

Dept. of Botany and Plant Sciences, University of California Riverside
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EDUCATION

M.S. Plant Biology, University of California, Riverside (UCR) June 2022
*Master's Thesis: An investigative approach to disease resistance and treatment of *Phytophthora sojae*, *Pythium spp.* and *Fusarium graminearum* in mapped soybean populations.*

B.S. Plant Biology, University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) June 2019

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Research interests include plant pathology, restoration ecology, invasive species ecology, and mycorrhizal ecology. Current research investigates disease resistance and treatment of *Phytophthora sojae*, *Pythium spp.* and *Fusarium graminearum* in soybeans. Previous focus included active vegetation restoration in the Midwest and an understanding of restoration techniques such as control of invasive species, intervention seeding, and natural recovery from the seedbank of native species.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Graduate Student Research Assistant, UCR 2019 - Present

- ❖ Supporting existing research on *Phytophthora sojae* and *Pythium spp.* Engaging in independent research on *Fusarium graminearum* in relation to soybean crops. Assisted as needed in COVID-19 efforts to develop plans to maintain specimens in the plant growth facilities, lathhouses, and on associated farmland.

Undergraduate Research Assistant, UNL 2017 - 2019

- ❖ Supported research in the Kiesselbach Crops Research Laboratory related to how mycorrhizae affect sorghum growth during drought conditions. Collected and analyzed soil samples from agricultural fields for a 5-year study. Assisted with recreating drought and optimal sorghum growth conditions in a test lab for comparative analysis.

U.S. Forest Service Intern, UNL Career Experiences in Natural Resources Science 2018

- ❖ In conjunction with the Charles E. Bessey Nursey, supported the U.S. Forest Service's mission to restore ecosystem health in the Midwest. Assisted in the seed-extraction process and national forest repopulation projects in the Rockies under supervision of USFS Biologist, Richard Gilbert. Occasionally participated in education and outreach efforts at the National Grasslands Visitor Center.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant, UNL
Fundamentals of Biology, Laboratory (Spring 2017, 25 students)

AWARDS & HONORS

E. Lucy Braun Award, Ecological Society of America, \$1200 (2020)
Chancellor's Fellowship, \$18000 UCR (2019)
Magna Cum Laude, UNL (2019)
Student Luminary Award, UNL, \$1000 (2018)
Nebraska Seed Trade Association Scholarship, \$1000 (2015)

SERVICE

Botany Graduate Student Association (GSA) Officer, UCR 2021 - Present

- ❖ Acting as liaison to the Graduate Educational Advisory Committee. Managing in-person and virtual social events sponsored by both the Department and the larger GSA organization. Notifying fellow students of travel grant funding opportunities as in-person research and professional development opportunities open up with changing COVID regulations.

Intern, Center for Conservation Biology, UCR 2019 - 2021

- ❖ Collaborated with designated center researchers on a carbon sequestration project as related to soil ecology and the impact on fungi populations. Helped close out the project for publication; additional contributions were reduced due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Mentor, Queens of STEAM, UCR 2019 - 2020

- ❖ Mentored young women in high school in Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math (STEAM). Demonstrated scientific opportunities, providing support for career exploration and aiding with college applications. Enriched STEM education at local high schools through hands-on and virtual presentations.

Volunteer, Center for Plant Science Innovation, UNL 2017 - 2019
❖ Assisted with community engagement efforts alongside graduate students, postdoctoral associates and faculty members. Co-facilitated 3 sessions of informational activities for elementary school students and co-presented general public presentations on plant pathology in low-income farming communities.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Student Member, American Phytopathological Society (APS) 2021 - Present
Student Member, Soil Ecology Society 2019 - Present
Student Member, Ecological Society of America (ESA) 2018 - Present

INVITED TALKS

- 1) Dophyta P. Diurnal mycorrhizal fungi productivity in relation to carbon sequestration. Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting. August 2020. Invited virtual presentation.
- 2) Dophyta P. and R. Gilbert. Impact of seed extraction processes on the restoration of forests in the Rockies. University of Nebraska, Kearney, Department of Biology Seminar. April 2018. Invited oral co-presentation.

PUBLICATIONS

- 1) Dophyta P., F.G. Capillaceum, and G.B. Oleracea. 2021. Quantitative disease resistance in relation to *Phytophthora sojae* and two species of *Pythium* in eight soybean nested association mapping populations. *Crop Science*, in press.
- 2) Epipremnum A., F.G. Capillaceum, G.B. Oleracea, and P. Dophyta. 2021. Patterns of diurnal mycorrhizal fungi productivity revealed with observational carbon sequestration applications in soil ecology. *New Phytologist*, in press.
- 3) Helix, H., C.I. Araliaceae, H. Algeriensis, and P. Dophyta. 2020. Effects of mycorrhizae on sorghum growth and photosynthesis under Midwest drought conditions. *Applied Soil Ecology* 147, doi: 10.1016/j.apsoil.2019.103370.