

Justin T. Whitaker

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Education

University of Arkansas; 3.67 GPA

Master of Science in Entomology, December 2010 (projected)

Research thesis: Molecular detection and occurrence of the honey bee pathogens
Nosema ceranae and *N. apis* in the United States and Turkey

The Ohio State University; 3.1 GPA

Bachelor's of Science in Biological Sciences, June 2007

Minor: Microbiology

Aerospace propulsion apprentice technical school, Sheppard Air Force Base, TX, April -
August 2002

United States Air Force Academy, 1999 – 2002

Research Experience

Graduate research

Social Insect Genetics laboratory with Dr. Allen Szalanski, January 2009 – present

- DNA isolation, gel electrophoresis, and primer design
- Duplex PCR for *Nosema* detection and species differentiation

Undergraduate research

Termite research laboratory with Dr. Susan Jones, summer 2006

- Assembly, placement, and maintenance of field and lab equipment
- Insect toxicology experiments using experimental insecticides

Virology Laboratory with Dr. Patrick Green, spring 2007

- DNA isolation, gel electrophoresis, and Western blots

Relevant Work Experience

Food microbiologist for the Ohio Department of Agriculture, February – May 2008

Mosquito Control Field Technician intern for the Franklin County, Ohio Board of Health,
May – September 2006

Professional Presentations

Whitaker, J., and A.L. Szalanski. 2009. Distribution and molecular detection of *Nosema ceranae* in US honey bees. 57th Annual ESA Meeting, Indianapolis, Indiana.

Whitaker, J., and A.L. Szalanski. 2009. Molecular detection and occurrence of *Nosema ceranae* from Turkish honey bees. Third Annual Arthropod Genomics Symposium, Kansas

Awards and Honors

Travel grant for poster presentation at the 2009 57th ESA Annual Meeting, Indianapolis, Indiana.

First Place, 2009 ESA Student Competition for the President's Prize for student posters in the Molecular: Other category of the Plant-Insect Ecosystem division.

Dean's List at the Ohio State University, autumn quarter 2006.

Honorable Discharge, US Air Force, 22 February 2004.

Refereed Publications

Submitted to the journal Apidologie in December 2009: J. Whitaker, A.L. Szalanski, and M. Kence. Molecular Detection of *Nosema ceranae* and *N. apis* from Turkish Honey Bees.

Reports and Non-Refereed Publications

Szalanski, A.L., R. Magnus, and J. Whitaker. 2009. Honey bee research at the University of Arkansas. Arkansas Plant Board Apiary Newsletter 46:(3) pg. 2.

Szalanski, A.L., and J. Whitaker. 2009. *Nosema ceranae* research at the University of Arkansas. Arkansas Plant Board Apiary Newsletter 46:(1) pg. 1.

Professional Memberships

Entomological Society of America
American Society of Microbiology
Arkansas Entomological Society

Student Involvement

2006 – 2007: Charter member and treasurer of the Chrysalis Collective of Undergraduate Entomologists

2009 – present: Isely-Baerg Entomology Club

- Help manage apiary
- Extract honey from bee
- Aid club funding through honey sales
- Help plan club outings

2009 – present: member of Military Past and Present on Campus (MPPOC) student organization

Professional and Departmental Activities and Service

Attended entomology departmental seminars between January 2009 and present

Treasurer for the Isely-Baerg Entomology Club in 2009

Member of the UA Entomology Department 2009 and 2010 Distinguished Alumnus Award selection committee

Member of the Northwest Arkansas Beekeeper Association (NWABA)

- Provide recent research findings
- Act as liaison between local beekeepers and the UA Entomology Department

National Service

Providing *Nosema ceranae* and *N. apis* molecular diagnostics for the New York Department of Agriculture and Markets. 2009 – present.

State Service

Providing *Nosema ceranae* and *N. apis* molecular diagnostics for Northwest Arkansas beekeepers and the Arkansas State Plant Board. 2009 – present.

Local Community Service and Outreach

Science project judge in the microbiology division at the Ohio Academy of Science State Science Day in May 2008

Departmental representative at Fayetteville Farmer's Market during summer 2009

- Live insect displays
- Q&A about insects and arthropods with local citizens

Science project judge in the microbiology division for the Northwest Arkansas Regional Science and Engineering Fair 13 March 2009.

Provided *Nosema* research results at several NWABA meetings during 2009.

Bentonville Old High Middle School – Prepared live insect and microscope displays and answered questions about insects and entomology on 26 Feb and 23 Sep 2009

Training and Certifications

- Attended UA Graduate School's Fall 2009 Responsible Conduct of Research seminar series.
- Attended NWABA Beekeeping classes In January and February 2009. Topics included the history of beekeeping, pests and diseases, and honey extraction.