

Sara Weinstein

Batrachoseps@gmail.com

Objective

Seeking a temporary position as a research and field assistant in the biological sciences, with an emphasis in herpetology and disease ecology.

Experience

Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California at Berkeley

Supervisors: David Wake and Craig Moritz

Student Researcher, May 2007-Present

I am studying the effects of the amphibian chytrid fungus on the terrestrial Plethodontid salamander, *Batrachoseps attenuatus*. I have designed and implemented a project that combines field and lab work to study seasonal trends in infection prevalence and mortality, historical evidence of the pathogen, and microclimate effects on survivorship. Lab procedures include DNA extraction, quantitative PCR, histology, and fungal cultures, and maintenance of captive amphibians for on going experiments. Field work involves nocturnal amphibian surveys and testing for the pathogen via skin swabs.

Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California at Berkeley

Supervisors: Kevin Rowe and Christopher Conroy

Field technician, June 2008- September 2008

Assisting in collection, preparation, and curating of mammalian and herpetological specimens as part of a multiyear survey of Californian vertebrate diversity. Field work involves backcountry camping, setting lines of Sherman and Tomahawk traps, and the preparation of museum specimens. Detailed field notes, including descriptions of the habitat and vegetation in survey locations, are required for each day in the field. Mammals preparation techniques include skinning, skeletonizing, and fluid preps. In between field trips, museum curation work includes identifying, labeling and sorting specimens, data entry, and assisting in trip preparation and organization.

Department of Integrative Biology, University of California at Berkeley

Supervisor: Christopher Clark

Field Assistant, 2006-2008

Assisting a graduate student with field studies on the flight dynamics of hummingbirds. Work includes searching for bird territories, observing and recording behavior, and trapping birds using mist nets or feeder traps.

Department of Integrative Biology, University of California at Berkeley

Supervisor: Cheryl Briggs

Lab Assistant, January 2006- December 2007

Participated in projects involving both invertebrates and amphibians. I identified and counted parasitoid wasps and midges (*Rhopalomyia californica*) of Coyote Bush (*Baccharis pilularis*) as part of a study of host/parasitoid dynamics. Coyote Bush galls were sectioned under a dissecting scope and associated insects were removed and identified to species. I was responsible for the feeding, cleaning, and care of

approximately 200 adult and tadpole *Rana muscosa*. Lab work included isolating and culturing *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* fungus, swab DNA extraction, and quantitative PCR. I participated in fieldwork in Yosemite, hiking to high elevation lakes to assist with frog surveys, capturing, swabbing, and blood sampling.

Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Marine Biology, University of California at Santa Barbara

Supervisor: Armand Kuris

Lab Assistant, May 2005- August 2005

I participated in field and lab research studying parasite ecology in the salt march ecosystem. Field work included seining for fish in the salt marsh and UCSB campus lagoon, conducting surveys of vegetation, and collecting marine snails and other invertebrates. Lab work involved the identification and counting of larval trematode parasites, washing glassware, and constructing crab exclusion cages.

Education

University of California at Berkeley (High Distinction in General Scholarship/ *magna cum laude*),

B.A., Integrative Biology (Highest Honors) 2008

Cumulative GPA: 3.845

Relevant Course Work

University of California at Berkeley

Natural History of Vertebrates (Integrative Biology 104)

Herpetology (Integrative Biology 175)

Seminar on Biology of Amphibians and Reptiles (Integrative Biology 234, Audited)

American Wildlife- Identification and Conservation (Earth Science and Policy Management 106)

Field Entomology (Earth Science and Policy Management 147)

Diversity of Plants and Fungi (Plant Biology c102)

Council for International Education Exchange, Monteverde, Costa Rica

Tropical Diversity

Tropical Community Ecology

Independent Research in Biology/Ecology

Grants and Honors

Joseph LeConte Award, Department of Integrative Biology, UC Berkeley (2008)

Regents' and Chancellor's scholar, UC Berkeley (2004-2008)

Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship, UC Berkeley (2007)

References available upon request