

Sheena M. A. Parsons

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Education

M.S. Kansas State University. 2011 (Biology)

Thesis research: “A generalist grasshopper species (*Melanoplus femurrubrum*) is adapted to variable environments along a latitudinal gradient”

Advisor: Anthony Joern

B.S. Texas A&M University – College Station. 2006 (Entomology)

Undergraduate research: “Pupal migration and dispersal patterns of blowflies in the Brazos Valley of Central Texas”

Advisors: Jimmy K. Olson and Jeffery K. Tomberlin

Certifications

Wildland Firefighter (Type 2); American Red Cross First Aid, Adult CPR/AED

Research Interests

conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services, ecology & physiology (mechanisms, species responses and adaptations across ecological gradients), life history, population dynamics, species ranges (factors influencing distributions), nutritional ecology (feeding behavior, environmental constraints on feeding/processing, mutualisms, effects of parasitism on host feeding behavior/physiology)

Appointments Held

2/2012 – Current *Research Technician*, Kansas Biological Survey, University of Kansas

Bryan L. Foster is the primary investigator on this project funded by the National Science Foundation. Primary responsibilities include overseeing a crew of undergraduate (2-4) and graduate students (1-4) and operations for long term plot based field experiments located at the University of Kansas Field Station in Lawrence, KS.

9/2014 – Current KU Field Station Operations Committee

3/2013 – 4/2013 *Fire Hand Crew*, Horton Bureau of Indian Affairs

8/2008 – 8/2011 *Graduate Teaching Assistant*, Division of Biology, Kansas State University

5/2006 – 8/2008 *Research Assistant*, Division of Biology, Kansas State University

5/2005 – 5/2006 *Research Technician*, Department of Entomology, Texas A&M University

Publications and Presentations

Fraser, L.H., J. Pither, A. Jentsch, M. Sternberg, M. Zobel, D. Askarizadeh, S. Bartha, C. Beierkuhnlein, J.A. Bennett, A. Bittel, B. Boldgiv, I.I. Boldrini, E. Bork, L. Brown, M. Cabido, J. Cahill, C.N. Carlyle, G. Campetella, S. Chelli, O. Cohen, A. Csergo, S. Díaz, L. Enrico, D. Ensing, A. Fidelis, J.D. Fridley, B. Foster, H. Garris, J.R. Goheen, H.A.L. Henry, M. Hohn, M.H. Jouri, J. Klironomos, K. Koorem, R. Lawrence-Lodge, R. Long, P. Manning, R. Mitchell, M. Moora, S.C. Müller, C. Nabinger, K. Naseri, G.E. Overbeck, T.M. Palmer, **S. Parsons**, M. Pesek, V.D. Pillar, R.M. Pringle, K. Roccaforte, A. Schmidt, Z. Shang, R. Stahlmann, G.C. Stotz, S. Sugiyama, S. Szentes, D. Thompson, R. Tungalag, S. Undrakhbold, M. van Rooyen, C. Wellstein, J.B. Wilson, and T. Zupo. 2015. Worldwide evidence of a unimodal relationship between productivity and plant species richness. *Science*. 349: 302-305.

- Parsons, S.M.A.** and A. Joern. 2014. Life history traits associated with body size covary along a latitudinal gradient in a generalist grasshopper. *Oecologia*. 174: 379-391.
- Prather, C.M., Pelini, S., Laws, A., E. Rivest, M. Woltz, C.P. Bloch, I. Del Toro, C.-K. Ho, J. Kominoski, T.A.S. Newbold, **S. Parsons**, and A. Joern. 2013. Invertebrates, ecosystem services and climate change. *Biological Reviews*. 88: 327–348. doi: 10.1111/brv.12002.
- Parsons, S.M.A.** 2011. A generalist grasshopper species (*Melanoplus femurrubrum*) is adapted to variable environments along a latitudinal gradient. K-State Research Exchange. <http://hdl.handle.net/2097/13093>
- Parsons, S.M.A.** and A. Joern. Generalist grasshopper species adapted to variable environments across the central plains. Grasslands in a Global Context Symposium, Kansas State University, September, 2011. (Poster)
- Parsons, S.M.A.** and A. Joern. Converse Bergmann’s Rule in the red-legged grasshopper (*Melanoplus femurrubrum*): body size and performance variation along a latitudinal gradient. 96th Annual Ecological Society of America meeting, Austin, TX, August, 2011. (Contributed Oral Presentation)
- Parsons, S.M.A.** and A. Joern. A generalist grasshopper response to temperature and food quality along a latitudinal gradient. 95th Annual Ecological Society of America meeting Pittsburgh, PA, August, 2010. (Poster)
- Parsons, S.M.A.**, Klug, P., Carter, D. and D.C. Hartnett. Ecology of African Savannas. Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Seminar Series, Kansas State University, September, 2009. (Invited Presentation)
- Parsons, S.**, Cammack, J. and J.K. Olson and J.K. Tomberlin. Comparison of *Phormia regina* (Diptera: Calliphoridae) data sets for minimal PMI estimates. 4th Annual North American Forensic Entomology Association meeting, West Lafayette, IN, July, 2006. (Contributed Oral Presentation)

Teaching Experience

- Graduate Teaching Assistant*, Division of Biology, Kansas State University
Ecology Laboratory (BIOL 198) - Spring 2010, 2011
Physiological Adaptations of Animals Laboratory (BIOL 514) – Fall 2010
Principles of Biology (BIOL 198) – Fall 2008, 2009, Spring 2009
- Undergraduate Teaching Assistant*, Department of Entomology, Texas A&M University
Applied Forensic Entomology (ENTO 431) – Spring 2006

Service and Outreach

- Free State High School Prairie Restoration – Fall 2014, 2015*
I have helped with fall plant vegetation surveys and classroom demonstrations for ecological sampling techniques to Julie Schwarting’s AP Environmental Studies and Biology classes.
- Learning About Nature Program – May 17, 2013*
I developed and led a short insect diversity learning activity at the Baker Wetlands for 6th graders
- Guided Tours on Konza Prairie Biological Station*
I led groups of undergraduates, visiting secondary educators, and members from the general public on guided tours which highlighted ongoing research on Konza and the Flint Hills prairie
- Konza Prairie Biological Station’s Biennial Visitor’s Day– September 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012*
The KPBS hosts a public open house biennially. I gave guided tours around research headquarters and led nature-based activities for the children’s Junior Ecologist program.
- Konza Prairie Burn Crew – 2006-2011*
I participated in prescribed burning of Konza Prairie Biol. Station research plots and watersheds.