Curricula Vitae

Anna Blight Parker

Ph.D. Candidate

North Carolina State University, Department of Entomology

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EDUCATION

Ph.D Entomology, *expected 2028*
Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology, North Carolina State University
Major Advisor: Gareth Powell
Dissertation: *Evolution and ecology of bioluminescence in Pyrophorini (Coleoptera: Elateridae)*

B.S. Biodiversity and Conservation, **2024**
Department of Biology, Brigham Young University
3.99/4 GPA, *magna cum laude*
With Advanced Certification in Spanish

CAREER EXPERIENCE

2024-present	**Graduate Research Assistantship** Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, North Carolina State University, Major Advisor: Gareth Powell
2023-2024	**Undergraduate Research Assistant** Department of Biology, College of Life Sciences, Brigham Young University, Major Advisor: Seth Bybee
2023-2024	**Exhibit Technician** Monte L. Bean Museum of Life Sciences, Brigham Young University. Exhibits developed: This is the Place: Utah's Biodiversity, Seed Movement, Evolutionary Tree of Life

PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

1. Natalie A. Saxton, Kyle E. Schnepp, Paul E. Skelley, Rachel L. Stone, Seth M. Bybee, Frank-Thorsten Krell, Jason F. Mate, M.J. Paulsen, **Anna Blight Parker**, Sergei Tarasov, Hong Thai Pham, Michael F. Whiting, Nicole L. Gunter, Gareth S. Powell. *(Submitted.)* First steps towards a stable classification: phylogenomics highlights problems and prospects forAphodiinae (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae) systematics.

PRESENTATIONS

Contributed Presentations

2025 **Anna Blight Parker,** Alexandra G. Duffy, Gareth S. Powell. Spectral variation and predator avoidance behavior of North American *Deilelater* with notes on natural history. Entomological Society of America; Portland, Oregon. 10-Minute Paper Graduate Competition; Behavior, Genetics, and Morphology Section. *Second place winner*

2025 **Anna Blight Parker.** Trees on FIRE: Phylogeny and Biogeography of the "Fire Beetles" (Coleoptera: Elateridae: Pyrophorini). International Firefly Symposium, Tlaxcala, Mexico.

2023 **Anna Blight Parker,** Gareth S. Powell, Seth M. Bybee. Trees on Fire: Molecular Phylogeny of Pyrophorini. Entomological Society of America; National Harbor, Maryland. 10-Minute Paper Undergraduate Competition; Phylogenetics Section.

Guest Lectures

2025 **Anna Blight Parker.** Visual communication in insects and the evolution of bioluminescent behavior. Beyond the Classroom Seminar, Shenandoah University.

Poster Presentations

2026 Aris Swanick, **Anna Blight Parker,** Gareth S. Powell. Effects of artificial light at night on fireflies. Summer Undergraduate Research & Creativity Symposium, North Carolina State University.

2025 **Anna Blight Parker,** Alexandra G. Duffy, Kyle E. Schnepp, Gareth S. Powell. Comparison of spectral color in United States headlight beetles (Coleoptera: Elateridae: Pyrophorini). North Carolina Entomological Society Annual Banquet. Student Poster Competition.

2024 **Anna Blight Parker,** Gareth S. Powell, Seth M. Bybee. This Tree is on FIRE: Molecular Phylogeny of Pyrophorini. Harold B Lee Library Undergraduate Poster Competition, Brigham Young University. *First place in poster design*

GRANTS AND FUNDING (Total Awarded $8,560)

2026 SysEB Research Travel Grant. Entomological Society of America. ($1,500)

2025 International Firefly Symposium Travel Grant, Fireflyers International Network. ($960)

2025 Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Grant, American Museum of Natural History. *Bioluminescence and Sexual Selection in* Ignelater *(Coleoptera: Elateridae) in The Bahamas.* ($2,100)

2024 College Undergraduate Research Award, Brigham Young University College of Life Sciences. ($4,000)

AWARDS AND HONORS

2024-2028	Goodnight Doctoral Fellowship, North Carolina State University
2024	First Place in Poster Design, Harold B. Lee Library Undergraduate Poster Competition, Brigham Young University
2023	Experiential Learning Travel Award, Brigham Young University.
2019-2024	Merit-based Tuition Scholarship, Brigham Young University
2019-2024	WAEPA Scholarship
2019	Clarke County Horseshoe Association Scholarship
2019	Virginia Delegate to the National Youth Science Camp
2018	Generation Nano: Superheroes Inspired by Science, National Science Foundation, second place nationally

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant/Lab Instructor, ENT 502: Insect Systematics and Diversity, Fall 2026

Teaching Assistant, ENT 425: General Entomology, Fall 2025. *Curriculum overhaul and assignment design*

Teaching Assistant, BIO 100: Biology for Non-Majors, Fall 2020, 2023, Winter 2021, *Recitation*

Education Intern, Blue Ridge Wildlife Center, Summer 2020

Invited Lecturer, ENT 425: General Entomology, Fall 2025

Guest Lecturer, ENT 425: General Entomology, Fall 2026

Guest Lecturer, IB Biology I and II, Clarke County High School

COLLECTIONS STUDIED

Florida State Collection of Arthropods (FSCA) (2 days)	2025-2026
North Carolina State University Insect Collection (NCSU)	2024-2026
Monte L. Bean Museum (BYUC) (1 day)	2023

FIELD WORK (88 days total)

June 2025	Key Largo, Florida
May-June 2025	Finca Las Piedras, Perú
May 2025, 2026	Archbold Research Station, Florida
June-July 2024	Kingdom of Tonga: Tongatapu and Eua
September 2023	Lytle Nature Reserve, Utah
May-June 2023	Ecuador

WORKSHOPS

2025	Writing a Teaching Philosophy, The Graduate School, North Carolina State University
2025	Processing Course Evaluations, The Graduate School, North Carolina State University
2025	Teaching with AI, The Graduate School, North Carolina State University
2025	Assessing Learning, The Graduate School, North Carolina State University
2025	New TA Workshop, The Graduate School, North Carolina State University

MEDIA COVERAGE

2025 Peru Expedition Advances NC State Insect Collection, Research. Amanda Kerr. College of Agriculture and Life Sciences News. Link

PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES

2026-present Graduate Women in Science
2025-present The Coleopterists Society
2025-present Society for the Study of Evolution
2025-present North Carolina Entomological Society
2024-present NCSU Entomology Graduate Student Association
2023-present Entomological Society of America
2019-2020 American Association for the Advancement of Science

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

2025-present *Ad Hoc* Reviewer, Zootaxa (1)
2025 Media Chair, Entomology Graduate Student Association

DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

2026-2027 Academic Affairs Committee, Student Representative

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

2026 Elementary School Blitz, presented to 100 elementary schoolers and 12 adults at Morris Grove Elementary School and Northside Elementary School
2025 Q&A with Undergraduate Animal Behavior Course at Shenandoah University
2025 Entomology Graduate Student Association Insect Zoo at Bugfest, reached an estimated 300 people
2025 Invited speaker at Winchester, Virginia Stake Girls Camp on insect diversity and natural history, reaching >70 young women and ~15 adults
2024 Entomology Graduate Student Association Insect Zoo at Bugfest, reached an estimated 300 people
2024-2026 Tours of the NCSU Insect Museum reaching 18 people total

MENTORSHIP

Lucas Hall, Undergraduate, August 2026-Present
Aris Swanick, Undergraduate, June 2025-July 2026, received Project Supply Grant (Office of Undergraduate Research, $1,500), poster presentation

LANGUAGES

English
Spanish: ACTFL Qualified as Advanced Mid-High (fluent), based on written test (WPT) and oral interview (OPIc)