

*Curriculum Vitae*  
**Sarah Akulin, B.Sc.**

Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology,  
North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC, USA  
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EDUCATION

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**M.Sc. Entomology, *IN PROGRESS***

**Department of Entomology, North Carolina State University**

Major Advisors: Brian Wiegmann, Gareth S. Powell

Thesis: *Taxonomy, biogeography, and phylogeny of Nearctic Antochini crane flies (Family: Limoniidae)*

**B.Sc. Biology, 2023**

**Department of Entomology, Old Dominion University**

Research Advisor: Deborah Waller

Perry Honors College Final Project: *Evaluating the repellency of plant essential oils on ants of the southeastern U.S*

PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS & RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

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2024 – present

**Graduate Research Assistant**

Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, North Carolina State University

2023

**Mosquito Control Technician**

City of Portsmouth Public Works, Virginia

I set CDC, BG, and gravid traps for mosquito surveillance, identifying and recording species abundance diversity. I also applied pesticides, took preventative action and did public outreach to manage local mosquito populations.

2023

**Independent Undergraduate Research**

Perry Honors College, Old Dominion University, Virginia

I conducted assays to determine the repellent effects of accessible essential oil products on various species of ants in a field setting.

2022

**VB Mosquito Control Intern**

Abacus Staffing, Virginia Beach Public Works, Virginia

I set CDC, BG, and gravid traps for mosquito surveillance, identifying and recording species abundance diversity. I maintained the health and care of sentinel birds used to monitor vector-borne disease load in local mosquito populations.

2021

**Insect and Reptile Section Employee**

Simply Pets, Chesapeake, Virginia

I maintained the husbandry of mice, rats, reptiles, amphibians and arthropod colonies, including cockroaches, crickets, arachnids, isopods and myriapods.

## AWARDS AND HONORS

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2025 Honorable Mention for the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP)

## FUNDED GRANTS

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2023 Perry Honors College Summer Undergraduate Research Grant (\$3,000)

## SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

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### Abstracts

2024 **Sarah M. Akulin** & Deborah Waller. Evaluating the repellency of plant essential oils on ants of the southeastern U.S.: Old Dominion University Undergraduate Research Symposium (Norfolk, VA).  
<https://digitalcommons.odu.edu/undergradsymposium/2024/posters/16/>

### Contributed Presentations

2023 **Sarah M. Akulin** & Deborah Waller. Evaluating the repellency of plant essential oils on ants of the southeastern U.S.: presented at the Virginia Academy of Science Annual Meeting (Charlottesville, VA).

### Selected Contributed Posters

2024 **Sarah M. Akulin** & Deborah Waller. Evaluating the repellency of plant essential oils on ants of the southeastern U.S.: presented at the Old Dominion University Undergraduate Research Symposium (Norfolk, VA).

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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### North Carolina State University

*Teaching Assistant/Guest Lecturer, ENT425; Fall 2025 (scheduled)*

## MUSEUMS/COLLECTIONS STUDIED **totaling 11 days\***

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\*Collections where a position was held were excluded from total days

NC State Insect Collection, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC (NCSU) 2024-present  
Charles P. Alexander Collection, Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, Silver Hill, MD (USNM) 2025  
Florida State Collection of Arthropods, Gainesville, FL (FSCA) 2025

## FIELD EXPERIENCE **totaling 48 days\***

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\*Field experience from where a mosquito control position was held was excluded from total days

### Domestic – 48 days

Florida (Hamilton), New York (Accord), North Carolina (Boone, Crossnore, Carl Alwin Schenck Memorial Forest, Pisgah National Forest, Raleigh), Virginia (Chesapeake, Floyd, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Radford, Virginia Beach, Williamsburg)

## WORKSHOPS ATTENDED

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- 2023 Hazardous Spill Management Workshop (City of Portsmouth Public Works & Utilities)
- 2022 Mosquito Identification Certification Course (VMCA)

## MEDIA COVERAGE

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- 2023 89. What is a Mosquito Technician? (Feat. Sarah Akulin). Lil Dudes Insect Academy.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=djfHTjDR22o>

## PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES

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- 2024–present Society for the Study of Evolution (SSE)
- 2024–present North Carolina Entomological Society (NCES)
- 2024–present NCSU Entomology Graduate Student Association (EGSA)
- 2024–present Dipterists Society (formerly the North American Dipterists Society)
- 2023–present Entomology Society of America (ESA)
- 2023–2024 Virginia Academy of Science (VAS)
- 2022–2024 Virginia Mosquito Control Association (VMCA)
- 2022–2023 Perry Honors College

## DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

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- 2025–present Outreach Coordinator for EGSA

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

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- 2024 Volunteered at the EGSA booth for Bugfest 2024
- 2023 Informed general public in preventative mosquito control measures, Portsmouth, Virginia