Curriculum Vitae

Sarah M. Jeffers

PhD Student
Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology, Department of Biological Sciences
North Carolina State University
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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Biology & Entomology **August 2024 — Present**
PIs: Drs. Rafael Guerrero & Gareth Powell
North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC
Research Interests: Evolutionary Biology, Signaling Theory, Systematics, Genomics

B.S.E.S. of Entomology **2024**
University of Georgia, Athens, GA 3.74/4 Major GPA
Minors in American Sign Language Minor & Biology

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Graduate Research Assistant, Dr. Gareth Powell Insect Evolution Lab **2024 — Present**
NCSU Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology
Insect evolution, Phylogenetic analysis, Genomic and Morphological data

Graduate Research Assistant, Dr. Rafael Guerrero Lab **2024 — Present**
NCSU Department of Biological Sciences
Large-scale biological data analysis, Genomics, Command Line and HPC

Undergraduate Research Assistant, Dr. Nancy Hinkle Research Lab **2023 — 2024**
UGA Department of Entomology
Maintained insect colonies, Digitization, Organization

Undergraduate Researcher, Directed Reading Program **2023**
UGA Department of Mathematics
Integer Partitions, Literature Review, Graduate Mentorship

HONORS & AWARDS

Genetics and Genomics Academy Fellowship, NCSU **2024**
Fellowship bridging multiple disciplines through the lens of genes and genomes

SysEB Mcpherson Biodiversity Award *($2,000)* **2026**
Supporting "Lying is the most fun a beetle can have: Honest vs. dishonest signaling in Coleoptera in Costa Rica"

PRESENTATIONS

Genetics and Genomics Academy Flash Talks **Aug 2026**

***Sarah Jeffers**, Rafael Guerrero, Gareth Powell.* "The Evolution of Color in Erotylidae". North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC

Carolina Biodiversity Collaborative Symposium **May 2026**

***Sarah Jeffers**, Rafael Guerrero, Gareth Powell.* "Evolution in Color: Investigating Aposematism in Coleoptera". North Carolina Botanical Garden, Chapel Hill, NC

Center for Systematic Entomology Conference **Jan 2026**

***Sarah Jeffers**, Rafael Guerrero, Gareth Powell.* "Lying is the Most Fun a Beetle Can Have : Honest vs. dishonest signaling in Coleoptera". Florida State Collections of Arthropods, Gainesville, FL

Genetics and Genomics Scholars (GGS) Poster Session **Mar 2025**

Directed Reading Program Conclusion Session **Nov 2023**

TEACHING

Biology 181 Lab Instructor, NCSU *(totalling **301** students)* **2025 — Present**

12 sections of 24-26 students

Entomology 201 Teaching Assistant, NCSU *(totalling **260** students)* **2025**

American Sign Language Teaching Assistant, UGA *(totalling **18** students)* **2024**

Hebrew School Teacher, CCI, GA *(totalling **12** middle school students)* **2021 — 2022**

OUTREACH

North Carolina State University Insect Museum Tours *(totalling **30** people)* **2025 — Present**

North Carolina State University Entomology Club Graduate Panel *(totalling **10** students)* **2026**

Graduate Student Panel at Sanderson High School, NC *(totalling **30** students)* **2025**

Clarke Central High School Arthropod Club, Athens, GA *(totalling **26** students)* **2024**

Interfaith Youth Core Vaccine Outreach **2021 — 2022**

WORK EXPERIENCE

UGA Climbing Wall Manager **2022 — 2024**

Staff Supervision, Budget Management, Safety

Organized a charity competition, raising over **$10,000** for the Southeastern Climbing Coalition

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MEMBERSHIPS & ASSOCIATIONS

Entomological Society of America 2026

Coleopterists Society 2026

DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

NCSU Insect Museum: Creating Outreach Boxes 2026

DEPP Social Media Committee Representative 2026 — Present

Powell Insect Evolution Lab Social Publicity and Networking	2025 — Present
NCSU Entomology Graduate Student Association: Social Co-Chair	2025 — Present
NCSU Graduate Student Association of Biology	2024 — Present
NCSU Climbing Club	2024 — Present
UGA Climbing Club: Social Chair	2021 — 2024