

## Megan Paustian - CV

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### EDUCATION

**University of Maryland**, College Park, MD

Ph.D. candidate, BEES program (Biology, Ecology, Evolution, and Systematics) (Sept. 2004 – present; advanced to doctoral candidacy May 22, 2007; expect to defend dissertation May, 2010)

**Bryn Mawr College**, Bryn Mawr, PA

B.A. in Biology, concentration in Environmental Science, *summa cum laude* (May 2004)

### CAREER GOALS

I am interested in becoming a museum curator of molluscs or in attaining a nonprofit or government position through which I may study the conservation ecology or pest management of molluscs. In any career path, I hope to take a role in educating professionals and the public on mollusc-related issues.

### RESEARCH FOCUS

I am interested in the ecology, invasion biology, and phylogeny of terrestrial slugs, particularly of the family Philomycidae and other poorly-known taxa. For my dissertation research, I am investigating how competition between non-native Arionid slugs and native Philomycid slugs may negatively impact Philomycid populations. I am seeking to quantify the relative importance of the resources involved in conflict, determining the interindividual mechanisms of competition, and establishing how important habitat factors may interact with competition.

**Dissertation Project**, “The effect of resource competition between non-native and native slugs on native slug abundance and distribution,” University of Maryland (preliminary proposal May 22, 2007)

### PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

#### **Annual American Malacological Society (AMS) meeting**

Paleontological Research Institution, Ithaca (July 19-23, 2009) – oral presentation:

“Evaluating

the presence of competition between native and invasive slugs in central Maryland”

University of Illinois, Carbondale (June 29 – July 4, 2008) – oral presentation:

“Competition

between Native and Non-Native Slugs: Investigations of Spatial Displacement and of Limiting Resources”

University of Washington, Seattle (July 29 – Aug. 3, 2006) – poster: “Natural feeding regimes

of slugs in central Maryland”

**Annual Mid-Atlantic Malacology (MAM) meeting**, Delaware Natural History Museum, Wilmington. Oral presentations:

“Experimental results, 2008...” (Mar. 7, 2009)

“Experimental results, 2007...” (Mar. 15, 2008)

“The effect of resource competition between non-native and native slugs on native slug abundance and distribution” (Mar. 31, 2007)

**Ecological Society of America (ESA) Annual meeting**, Albuquerque (Aug. 2 -7, 2009) - oral presentation: "Evaluating the presence of competition between native and invasive slugs in central Maryland"

**ANTICIPATED FUTURE PUBLICATIONS** to submit in late 2009:

"Habitat displacement between a native and an invasive slug species" (to *Malacologia*)

"Evaluating the presence of competition and competition mechanisms between a native and an invasive slug species in captivity" (to *Malacologia*)

"Growth and survival of juveniles of a native slug in the presence of an adult invasive slug" (to *Malacologia*)

"Shared food and shelter resources between a native and an invasive slug species" (to *The Maryland Naturalist*)

### **ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCES**

**Workshop on North American slug identification, American Malacological Society (AMS) Meeting**, University of Illinois, Carbondale (June 29-July 4, 2008). I gave a 30 minute presentation to professionals on the basic identification and ecology of slugs.

**Inventory of mollusc collection**, Dept. of Invertebrate Zoology, National Museum of Natural History (Sept. 2007 – present) – I inventory type specimens and update specimen records in an electronic database that makes records available to the public.

**Groundwork magazine article** (Sept. 2007) – I wrote and illustrated "Trail-makers: The slugs in your garden and beyond" in this landscape contractors' magazine as part of a UMD extension course.

**Bioblitz** at Potomac Gorge (Jun. 24-25, 2006) and at Rock Creek Park (May 18-19, 2007), Washington, D.C. – I helped to locate and identify slugs during these major inventories of underinvestigated species.

### **TEACHING ASSISTANCESHIPS**

Principles of Biology I, University of Maryland (fall 2004 - spring 2005)

Principles of Biology II, University of Maryland (fall 2005 – fall 2008)

Learning Outcome Assessment project to design standards of evaluation for undergraduate scientific writing, University of Maryland (spring 2009 – present)

### **SKILLS**

#### **Research Background:**

Experienced with maintaining colonies of slugs in the lab, identifying slug species through external and internal anatomy, and surveying field populations.

General training in field ecology.

Broad graduate training in the theories of ecology, evolution, and systematics.

#### **Statistics:**

Biometry (2 semesters, graduate-level), Multivariate Analysis.

#### **Computer Programs:**

Experienced with Microsoft Word, Excel, and Powerpoint.

Fairly experienced with Adobe Photoshop CS3, Illustrator CS3, and SAS 9.2.

Some experience with PAUP 4.0 and MacClade 4.

Basic knowledge of Arcview GIS 9.3.

#### **Scientific Illustration:**

Strong background in visual and graphic art, including some computer illustration.

Developing skills in anatomical drawing.

#### **Languages:**

Some reading and speaking knowledge of German.

## **HONORS**

**Jacob K. Goldhaber Travel Award** – UMD award for attending conferences (summer 2009)

**Entomology Student Organization Travel Award** (summer 2009)

**Conchologists of America Grant to Malacology** (summer 2008)

**Ilene H. Nagel Travel Grant** – UMD award for academic travel (summer 2005)

**Darwin scholarship** - UMD award for biology graduate students (fall 2004 - fall 2006)

**Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship** in the Sciences (spring 2003)