

Jess A. Peirson

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Contact Information

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Professional Preparation

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN, Ann Arbor, Michigan
September 2003 – Present. Doctoral Student in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
Dissertation Project: Origins of the Endemic Flora of the Glaciated Great Lakes Region of North America: A Case Study of the Biogeography, Ecology, and Evolution of the *Solidago simplex* Species Complex (Asteraceae)
Advisors: Dr. Tony A. Reznicek; Dr. Christopher W. Dick

OHIO UNIVERSITY, Athens, Ohio
September 2000 – March 2003. Master of Science in Plant Biology
Thesis Project: A Systematic Revision of *Collinsonia* L. (Lamiaceae) Based on Morphological and Molecular Evidence.
Advisor: Dr. Philip D. Cantino

MARSHALL UNIVERSITY, Huntington, West Virginia
August 1996 – May 2000. Bachelor of Science in Botany (Summa Cum Laude)
Senior Thesis: The Vascular Flora of Sayre's Pond, a Remnant Prairie Fen in Champaign County, Ohio.
Advisor: Dr. Dan K. Evans

Professional Experience

September 2003 – Present. **Graduate Student Instructor**
The University of Michigan, Department of Biology, Ann Arbor, Michigan
Lab instructor: Introductory Biology (Fall 2003; Winter 2005), Plant Diversity (Winter 2004); Practical Botany (Winter 2006; Winter 2007); Systematic Botany (Fall 2006; Fall 2007)
Lecturer and Course Coordinator: Practical Botany (Winter 2008)

June 2005 – September 2005. **Field Biologist**
City of Ann Arbor Natural Areas Preservation Unit, Ann Arbor, Michigan
Vegetation surveys and floristic quality assessment of city land holdings and potential acquisitions.

March 2003 – June 2003. **Instructor**
Ohio University, Lancaster Campus, Lancaster, Ohio
Instructor of Record: Plant Biology 102 (Spring 2003)

September 2000 – November 2003. **Teaching Associate**
Ohio University, Department of Environmental and Plant Biology, Athens, Ohio
Lab instructor: Biology 101 (Fall 2000, Winter 2001), Plant Biology 111 (Winter 2002)
Lab assistant: Plant Systematics (Spring 2001, Spring 2002), Trees and Shrubs (Fall 2002)
Lab assistant and guest lecturer: Wildflowers (Summer 2002)

May 2002. **Rare Species Consultant**
Rural Community Assistance Program
Survey for Running Buffalo Clover (*Trifolium stoloniferum*) at the Village of Beaver Water Treatment Plant, Beaver, Ohio.

March 2000 – June 2000. **Field Botanist**
United States Army Corp of Engineers, Huntington, West Virginia
Kanawha River Survey - Identification and analysis of riparian vegetation along the Kanawha River, West Virginia.
Project Director: Dr. Dan K. Evans

Grants and Fellowships

2001 – Ohio University Graduate Student Senate, John Houk Memorial Research Grant (\$400)
2001 – Southern Appalachian Botanical Society, Graduate Student Research Grant (\$300)
2004 – EEB Department, Emma Cole Endowment (\$1260)
2005 – University of Michigan, Rackham Graduate School Travel Grant (\$400)
2005 – Winifred Chase Fellowship - Matthaei Botanical Garden (\$1500)
2005 – EEB Department, Block Grant (\$529)
2005 – Michigan Botanical Foundation Research Grant (\$850)
2006 – EEB Department, Angeline Whittier Fellowship in Plant Biology (\$1000)
2006 – American Society of Plant Taxonomists, Graduate Student Research Grant (\$900)
2006 – University of Michigan, Rackham Graduate School Travel Grant (\$500)
2006 – Hanes Memorial Fund, Botanical Research Grant (\$1990)
2007 – American Philosophical Society, Lewis & Clark Research Grant (\$4000)
2007 – EEB Department, Angeline Whittier Fellowship in Plant Biology (\$1518)
2007 – University of Michigan, Rackham Graduate Student Research Grant (\$3000)
2007 – University of Michigan, Rackham Graduate School Travel Grant (\$500)
2007 – NSF Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant (\$11,920)
2008 – University of Michigan, Rackham Graduate School Predoctoral Fellowship (\$26,400)

Peer-Reviewed Publications

Peirson, J. A., P. D. Cantino & H. E. Ballard Jr. 2006. A taxonomic revision of *Collinsonia* (Lamiaceae) based on phenetic analyses of morphological variation. *Systematic Botany* 31(2): 398-409.

Peirson, J. A. & D. K. Evans. 2008. The vascular flora of Sayres Pond, a remnant prairie fen in Champaign County, Ohio. *Rhodora* (In press for summer 2008).

Peirson, J. A. & A. A. Reznicek. In prep. Evolutionary phytogeography of the endemic flora of the glaciated Great Lakes Region of North America. *Journal of Biogeography* (to be submitted – summer/fall 2008).

Reviewed Book Chapters and Invited Publications

Peirson, J. A. 2002. The genus *Collinsonia* in North America. *Chinquapin* 10(2): 14.

Peirson, J. A. 2009 expected. *Collinsonia*. For: Flora of North America Editorial Committee, eds. Flora of North America North of Mexico. Vol. 16. New York and Oxford (Accepted).

Published Abstracts and Papers Presented

Peirson, J.A. 2002. Systematic studies of the genus *Collinsonia* (Lamiaceae). Abstract 29, Botany 2002. <http://www.botany2002.org/section12/abstracts/29.shtml>

Peirson, J.A., P.D. Cantino & H.A. Ballard. 2004. Phylogeny of *Collinsonia* and Tribe Elsholtzieae (Lamiaceae) Based on ITS Sequence Analysis. Abstract 34, Botany 2004.

<http://www.botany2004.org/engine/search/index.php?func=detail&aid=34>

- Peirson, J.A. & A.A. Reznicek.** 2005. Phylogeny and biogeography of *Solidago* subsection *Humiles* (Asteraceae): Assessing disjunction and endemism in eastern North America. Abstract 6, Botany 2005. <http://2005.botanyconference.org/engine/search/index.php?func=detail&aid=6>
- Peirson, J.A. & A.A. Reznicek.** 2006. Biogeography and evolutionary ecology of vascular plant endemism in the Great Lakes region of North America. Abstract 170, Botany 2006. <http://www.2006.botanyconference.org/engine/search/index.php?func=detail&aid=170>
- Peirson, J.A.** 2007. The evolution of Great Lakes region endemic plants: Influences of postglacial migration and ecological differentiation. Abstract 1506, Botany and Plant Biology 2007. <http://www.2007.botanyconference.org/engine/search/index.php?func=detail&aid=1506>
- Reznicek, A.A. & **J.A. Peirson.** 2007. Evolution in a glaciated landscape: Contribution of endemism to Great Lakes biodiversity. Abstract 881, Botany and Plant Biology 2007. <http://www.2007.botanyconference.org/engine/search/index.php?func=detail&aid=881>
- Peirson, J.A.** 2008. Ecological and phenological divergence of *Solidago simplex* populations in the glaciated Great Lakes region: Implications for reproductive isolation and speciation. Abstract 461, Botany 2007. <http://2008.botanyconference.org/engine/search/index.php?func=detail&aid=461>

Synergistic Activities

1. As a doctoral student at the University of Michigan, I have worked to characterize the biogeography, ecology, and evolution of the endemic vascular flora of the glaciated Great Lakes region of North America. I have presented my work at national meetings and have developed collaborations with researchers and scholars outside of the University of Michigan and the United States (e.g., J.C. Semple, Univ. of Waterloo).
2. I organized (along with Anton Reznicek) a symposium for the 2007 Botanical Society of America annual meeting in Chicago, Illinois. We brought together a diverse group of speakers to cover different aspects of the evolution and ecology of biodiversity in the Great Lakes region for the symposium entitled: *Evolution in a Glaciated Landscape: Contribution of Endemism to Great Lakes Biodiversity*. Several collaborations have resulted from the symposium, including preparations for comparative phylogeographic work on several Great Lakes region endemic plants (with Joel Olfelt, Northeastern Illinois University).
3. I am working with Paul Berry (Director, University of Michigan Herbarium and Matthaei Botanical Gardens), Tony Reznicek (Curator, University of Michigan Herbarium), and the horticultural staff at Matthaei Botanical Gardens to develop a research and public display garden for Great Lakes region endemic plants and associated, regionally restricted habitats. The goals of the project are to create an extensive living collection for future research and to improve public awareness of the unique biodiversity of the region.
4. As a graduate student at Ohio University, I worked to advance knowledge of the flora of the southeastern United States, in particular by revising the taxonomy of the genus *Collinsonia*, providing an up-to-date taxonomic treatment, identifying populations in need of conservation, and updating species determinations for 25+ major herbarium collections in eastern North America. I continue my work on *Collinsonia* and am currently part of the collaboration to produce the mint family volume for the Flora of North America project.

Professional Society Affiliations

American Society of Plant Taxonomists
Botanical Society of America
Ecological Society of America

International Association of Plant Taxonomists
Society of Systematic Biologists
Southern Appalachian Botanical Society

Professional Service

2003. Manuscript Review for *Sida*, *Contributions to Botany*

2005-2006. EEB Department Lunch Seminar Organizer: scheduled and organized presentations for the weekly department seminar.

2006-2007. EEB Department Executive Committee.

2006-2007. Whittaker Research Mentoring Fellow (EEB Department)

2006-2007. Botany and Plant Biology 2007 Symposium Organizer: *Evolution in a Glaciated Landscape: Contribution of Endemism to Great Lakes Biodiversity*.

Academic and Professional Honors

Predoctoral Fellowship – University of Michigan (2008)

Sigma Xi – Scientific Research Society (2001)

Gamma Beta Phi – National Honor Society (1998)

Phi Eta Sigma – National Honor Society (1997)

Deans List – Marshall University (1996-2000)

Major Academic Scholarships

Marshall University Presidential Scholarship (4 years: 1996 – 2000)

Graduate Curriculum

Cell Biology (PBIO 531), Community Ecology Seminar (EEB 800), Ecosystem Ecology (EEB 476), Molecular Ecology (EEB 401), Molecular Systematics (PBIO 569M), Natural Resources Statistics (NRE 438), Plant Ecology (PBIO 525), Plant Evolution (EEB 401), Plant Physiology (PBIO 524), Plant Speciation and Evolution (PBIO 657), Plant Systematics (PBIO 509), Population Dynamics (EEB 481), Principles of Evolution (EEB 516), Principles and Methods of Systematic Biology (BIOS 557)