

Sheena M. A. Parsons
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Education

M.S. Kansas State University. 2011 (Biology)

Thesis research: “A generalist grasshopper species (*Melanoplus femurrubrum*) is adapted to variable environments along a latitudinal gradient”

Advisor: Anthony Joern

B.S. Texas A&M University – College Station. 2006 (Entomology)

Undergraduate research: “Pupal migration and dispersal patterns of blowflies in the Brazos Valley of Central Texas”

Advisors: Jimmy K. Olsen and Jeffery K. Tomberlin

Certifications

Wildland Firefighter (Type 2), January 2012 – current

American Red Cross First Aid, Adult CPR/AED, May 2012 - Current

Research Interests

ecology & physiology (mechanisms for species responses and adaptations across broad ecological gradients), life history, population dynamics, species ranges (factors influencing distributions), nutritional ecology (feeding behavior, environmental constraints on feeding/processing, effects of parasitism on host feeding behavior/physiology), conservation for the preservation of diversity and ecosystem services

Appointments Held

2/2012 – Current	Research Technician, Kansas Biological Survey, University of Kansas
8/2008 - 8/2011	Graduate Teaching Assistant, Division of Biology, Kansas State University
5/2006 – 8/2008	Research Assistant, Division of Biology, Kansas State University
5/2005 – 5/2006	Research Technician, Department of Entomology, Texas A&M University

Publications and Presentations

Parsons, S.M.A and A. Joern. *In Review*. Clinal variation in body size, converse of Bergman’s Rule and countergradient variation: ecotypic performance along a latitudinal gradient by a generalist grasshopper. *Oecologia*.

Prather, C.M., Pelini, S., Laws, A., E. Rivest, M. Woltz, C.P. Bloch, I. Del Toro, C.-K. Ho, J. Kominoski, T.A.S. Newbold, S. Parsons, and A. Joern. 2013. Invertebrates, ecosystem services and climate change. *Biological Reviews*. 88: 327–348. doi: 10.1111/brv.12002.

Parsons, S.M.A. 2011. A generalist grasshopper species (*Melanoplus femurrubrum*) is adapted to variable environments along a latitudinal gradient. K-State Research Exchange. <http://hdl.handle.net/2097/13093>

Parsons, S.M.A. and A. Joern. Generalist grasshopper species adapted to variable environments across the central plains. Grasslands in a Global Context Symposium, Kansas State University, September, 2011. (Poster)

Parsons, S.M.A. and A. Joern. Converse Bergmann's Rule in the red-legged grasshopper (*Melanoplus femurrubrum*): body size and performance variation along a latitudinal gradient. 96th Annual Ecological Society of America meeting, Austin, TX, August, 2011. (Contributed Oral Presentation)

Parsons, S.M.A. and A. Joern. A generalist grasshopper response to temperature and food quality along a latitudinal gradient. 95th Annual Ecological Society of America meeting Pittsburgh, PA, August, 2010. (Poster)

Parsons, S.M.A., Klug, P., Carter, D. and D.C. Hartnett. Ecology of African Savannas. Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Seminar Series, Kansas State University, September, 2009. (Invited Presentation)

Parsons, S., Cammack, J. and J.K. Olsen and J.K. Tomberlin. Comparison of *Phormia regina* (Diptera: Calliphoridae) data sets for minimal PMI estimates. 4th Annual North American Forensic Entomology Association meeting, West Lafayette, IN, July, 2006. (Contributed Oral Presentation)

Teaching Experience

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Division of Biology, Kansas State University
Ecology Laboratory (BIOL 198) - Spring 2010, 2011
Physiological Adaptations of Animals Laboratory (BIOL 514) – Fall 2010
Principles of Biology (BIOL 198) – Fall 2008, 2009, Spring 2009

Undergraduate Teaching Assistant, Department of Entomology, Texas A&M University
Applied Forensic Entomology (ENTO 431) – Spring 2006

Service and Outreach

Guided Tours on Konza Prairie Biological Station

I led groups of undergraduates from visiting universities and from Kansas State University, visiting secondary educators, and members from the general public on guided tours which highlighted the ongoing research on Konza and the beauty of the prairies of the Flint Hills.

Konza Prairie Biological Station's Biennial Visitor's Day– September 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012

The Konza Prairie Biological Station is open to the public for one day biennially. I gave guided tours around research headquarters and led nature-based activities with children as part of the Junior Ecologist program.

Konza Prairie Burn Crew – 2006-2011

I participated in prescribed burning of the Konza Prairie Biological Station research plots and watersheds.

Membership in Professional Societies

Ecological Society of America
Entomological Society of America