

CURRICULUM VITAE: SHAWN T. DASH

CONTACT.

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EDUCATION.

- 2005-present** Ph.D. (current) Biological Science, University of Texas, at El Paso, TX (UTEP)
 Advisor: Dr. William Mackay
 Dissertation: A Morphological and Molecular Revision of *Hypoponera* Santschi, 1938
 (Hymenoptera: Formicidae)
- 2002-2004** M.Sc. (2004) Entomology, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA (LSU)
 Advisor: Dr. Linda M. Hooper-Bùi
 Thesis: Diversity and Biogeography of Ants (Hymenoptera: Formicidae)
 in Louisiana with Notes on Their Ecology
- 2003** The Ant Course Sponsored by The California Academy of Sciences, The E. O. Wilson
 Foundation and The Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard
- 1998-2002** B.Sc. (Degree with Distinction) Entomology and Wildlife Ecology (double major) *minor*
 Biological Science, University of Delaware, Newark, DE (UD)
 Advisor: Dr. Charles R. Bartlett
 Undergraduate Research Project: Comparison of the Ant Fauna in Two
 Eastern Deciduous Forest Fragments

HONORS AND AWARDS.

- 2006** University of Texas at El Paso, Graduate School Professional Funding Award
 For Southwestern Association of Naturalist annual meeting. (\$300.00)
- 2005** Louisiana State University (LSU), Dept of Entomology, L. D. Newsome award for
 outstanding M.S. student (\$1000.00)
- 2004** Runner-up for ESA President's Prize in Student ten-minute talk competition. Cb.
 Apiculture and Social Insects, and Cd2. Biology and Ecology, and Fb1. Urban
 Entomology. National Meeting, Salt Lake UT.
- 2003** LSU, Letter of commendation for Service-learning for 16 insect displays for public
 education
- 2002** LSU, Letter of commendation for Service-Learning for Bluebonnet Swamp educational
 insect displays.
- 2002** University of Delaware (UD), Department of Entomology and Applied Ecology, Faculty
 Award for outstanding undergraduate achievement.
- 2002** UD, George M. Worriow Agricultural Scholarship (\$500.⁰⁰)

GRANT PROPOSALS (SUBMITTED).

The Ernst Mayr Travel Grant in Animal Systematics 2006.	\$ 2,250
NSF GK-12 Education fellowship 2006.	\$ 30,000

GRANTS AWARDED.

American Museum of Natural History Collection Study Grant 2006. \$ 1,500

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE.

2004-2005	Research Associate with the red imported fire ant laboratory, LSU
2002-2004	Consulting Ant Taxonomist, LSU Department of Entomology
2001-May-Sep	Mosquito Taxonomist, Delaware Department of Fish and Wildlife, Division of Mosquito Control
2001-Feb-July	Laboratory Coordinator, Delaware Nature Society's White Clay Creek Macroinvertebrate survey
2000-Apr-2002-May	Assistant Insect Reference Collection Curator, UD

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE.

2005-Jan	Curated ant holdings for USDA Southern Forest Research Station. Pineville, LA
2004-Dec	Curated entire ant holdings at University of Delaware, Newark DE.
2004-Jul – Aug	Organized an excavation of Texas leaf-cutter ant nest's for a Discovery Channel program "John Lydon's Megabugs"
2003-Jun-Jul	Assisted three M.S. candidates: Red imported fire ant distribution in E. Baton Rouge Parish
2003-Oct	Assisted M.S. candidate: <i>S. invicta</i> effects on fauna community in pine dominated forest
2002-Present	University of Delaware Insect Reference Collection: Collected Auchenorhynchous Hemiptera
2002-Summer	University of Delaware Insect Reference Collection: Collected Formicidae, Auchenorhynchous Hemiptera, and Coleoptera from Maryland
2002	University of Delaware's AG-Day: Public education on Delaware's insect fauna
2002	Assisted with Delaware Nature Society's marco-invertebrate and Stream Watch collection program
2001	Assisted Wilmington PD Forensic team at a crime scene with the capture and collection of insect evidence
2001	Research Assistant for M.S. candidate: Small Hive Beetle larva migration. Hive preparation and experiment monitoring
2001	Delaware Nature Society Reptile and amphibian survey, Searching the Delmarva Peninsula for herptofauna and recording species encountered
2001	Research Assistant for M.S. candidate: Beetle composition in eastern woodlands, black lighting, pitfall sampling and specimen preparation
2000	Maryland Department of Natural Resources: Aided in the process of environmental impact reports and evaluation of endangered species and concurrence with development zones

RESEARCH PROJECTS.

- 2005-PREST** Doctoral Research: The taxonomy of *Hypoponera*.
- 2004-2005** Assisted on projects that focused on ant communities in pasture lands of Louisiana and ants inhabiting Longleaf Pine-dominated habitats.
- 2002-2004** Master's Research: Ant biodiversity of Louisiana
Investigated species diversity and biogeography of the ants in Louisiana
- 2002** Independent Study: Ant diversity at Audubon Zoo (New Orleans, LA)
Investigated patterns of diversity and community composition
Developed species list for Zoo (13 species present, examined over 425 specimens)
- 2002-2003** Independent Study: Ant diversity and food preference in Spanish Town District of Baton Rouge, Louisiana
Identified ants (15 species >12000 specimens)
Data entry and analysis on food preference
- 2001-2002** Senior Thesis: Comparison of Ant Fauna in Two Eastern Deciduous Forest Fragments Applied components of island biogeography theory to ant communities in two forest fragments
- 2000-2002** Undergraduate Studies: Species list of ants of Delaware January
Utilization and expansion of insect reference collection
- 2000-Jun-Aug** Field Research: Ants of Serpentine Barren Habitats, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife and Heritage Division June 2000-August 2000
Investigated basic ecology of the Alleghany mound building ant in a Serpentine barren habitat; investigated myrmecophilic relationship between the Mound -building ants and state-endangered Edward's Hair streak
- 1999-Feb-May** Undergraduate Research: Mate selection by female Striped Cucumber Beetles
Investigated the selective devices utilized by females to accept male mounting behavior and spermatophore acceptance

RESEARCH SKILLS.

- Use of dichotomous keys
- Proficient at identification of:
 - North American Birds (sight and song)
 - Reptiles and Amphibians (frogs by calls)
 - Insects (sight identification of families)
 - Ants of North America
 - Aquatic Invertebrates
 - Mammals of Eastern North America
- Competence in maintaining/curating insect collections
- Experience with identification of mosquitoes of medical importance
- Familiar with identification of plants and preparation of botanical specimens
- Experience with vegetation sampling
- Comfortable with basic laboratory techniques
- Basic familiarity with GIS, Arc View 3.x
- Familiar with Endnote programming for literature database
- Competence in Biota database
- Capable with Microsoft Computing Applications (Word, Excel, PowerPoint)

FIELD TRIPS/EXPEDITIONS.

- 2006 Collection trip thorough Mexico, from Chihuahua to Colima. (10 days)
- 2004 Collection to Alabama, Mississippi, and Florida panhandle (7 days)
- 2003 Collecting trip to Southern Georgia and throughout Florida. (12 days)

PUBLICATIONS.**REFERRED.**

Dash, S. T. and L. M. Hooper-Bùi. *Submitted* Species Diversity of Ants (Hymenoptera: Formicidae) in Louisiana. *Annals of the Entomological Society of America.*

Dash, S. T. and L. M. Hooper-Bùi. *Submitted* Species A Guide to the Common and Pest Ants (Hymenoptera: Formicidae) of Louisiana. *Florida Entomologist.*

BOOK.

Dash, S. T. and L. M. Hooper-Bùi. In progress The Ants of Louisiana. Set to published by Louisiana State University Press pp. 400

THESES.

Dash S. T. 2002. Diversity and Biogeography of Ants (Hymenoptera: Formicidae) in Louisiana with Notes on Their Ecology pp 298

NON-REFERRED.

Dash, S. T., L. M. Hooper-Bui, and M. A. Seymour. 2005 The Pest Ants of Louisiana: A Guide to their Identification, Biology and Control. LSU Ag Center publication # 2915

ONLINE PUBLICATIONS.

Hooper-Bui, L. M. and **S. T. Dash** 2005. Interesting Ants
http://www.lsuagcenter.com/en/environment/insects/ants/pest_ants/

Dash, S. T. 2005 Ants of Louisiana www.antweb.org

Dash, S. T., M. A. Seymour, and S. Clayton. 2004 The Pest Ants of Louisiana. www.lsu.edu/ants Flash application

Dash, S. T. 2004 The Ants of Louisiana www.lsu.edu/ants

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS.**ORAL PRESENTATIONS.**

Dash, S. T. and L. Hooper-Bùi. 2005 “Louisiana’s Ants, a Perspective on Conservation: Ramifications of a Contemporary Study on Biodiversity, Natural History and Biogeography”. Texas A& M University, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Science, Conservation, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Student Research Symposium. College Station, Texas

Dash, S. T. and L. Hooper-Bùi. 2005 “The Pest Ants of Louisiana: Identification and

Biology.” 79th Annual meeting of the Southeastern Branch, Entomological Society of America, Tunica Mississippi

Dash, S. T. and L. Hooper-Bùi. 2004 “Species diversity and biogeography of the ants (Hymenoptera: Formicidae) in Louisiana.” 52nd Annual Meeting of the Entomological Society of America, Salt Lake City, Utah

Dash, S. T. and L. M. Hooper-Bùi 2004 “Ants: The Little Things that Rule the World” Louisiana State University Science Saturdays Lecture Series

POSTER PRESENTATIONS.

Dash, S. T., and W. P. Mackay. 2006. The ant genus *Hypoponera* (Hymenoptera: Formicidae) in Mexico and southwestern United States. 53rd Annual Meeting of the Southwestern Association of Naturalist. Colima, Colima, Mexico.

Moser, J. C. and **S. T. Dash**. 2005 Complete excavation and mapping of an *Atta texana* (Hymenoptera: Formicidae) nest. Poster. East Texas Forest Entomology Meeting, Texas A & M University, College Station Texas

CO-AUTHORED PRESENTATIONS.

Lenhart, P. A., S. Del Toro, **S. T. Dash**, I. Del Toro, and W. P. Mackay. 2006. New style of fungal construction in the fungal-growing ant *Trachymyrmex smithi* (Hymenoptera: Formicidae) of the El. Paso Texas area. 53rd Annual Meeting fo the Southwestern Association of Naturalist. Colima, Colima, Mexico.

Lenhart, P. A., **S. T. Dash** and W. P. Mackay. 2006. The systematic of the ponerine ants of the genus *Dinoponera*. 53rd Annual Meeting fo the Southwestern Association of Naturalist. Colima, Colima, Mexico.

Seymour, Michael A., **S. T. Dash**, Linda Hooper- Búi, and John C. Moser. 2005 Excavation of *Atta texana* (Hymenoptera: Formicidae) colonies: a rare view into the life history of the species. 53rd Annual Meeting of the Entomological Society of America, Fort Lauderdale, FL.

O’Brein, Kathryn S., Linda Hooper- Búi, **Shawn T. Dash**, John C. Moser and Kristin Prejean. 2005 Soil analysis of four *Atta texana* (Hymenoptera: Formicidae) nests in Louisiana. 53rd Annual Meeting of the Entomological Society of America, Fort Lauderdale, FL.

L. Hooper- Búi, Benoit Lafleur, **Shawn T. Dash**, John Moser, Paul Mumma and James Geaghan. 2005 Soil fertility and plant growth in soils from pine forests and pine plantations: Possible effect of red imported fire ants *Solenopsis invicta* (Buren) and Texas leafcutter ants *Atta texana* (Buckley). Annual Meeting of Ecological Society of America, Montreal Canada.

L. Hooper-Búi and **S. T. Dash** and J Moser. 2005 Excavation of Leafcutter Ant Nest: A Discovery Adventure. 79th Annual meeting of the Southeastern Branch, Entomological Society of America, Tunica Mississippi

Prejean, K., **S. T. Dash**, L. Hooper-Bùi, and J. C. Moser. 2005 Effect of *Atta texana* (Hymenoptera : Formicidae) on Soil Nutrients, pH, and Organic Matter. Poster at 79th Annual meeting of the Southeastern Branch, Entomological Society of America, Tunica Mississippi

INFORMAL PRESENTATIONS.

Dash S. T. and M. A. Seymour. 2004 “Interesting Insects: a parade through biodiversity”. Our Lady of Mercy Elementary School Science Club, Baton Rouge, LA

Dash S. T. 2003 “Insect Diversity”- Taxonomy and Ecology Talk. Highland Road Park Observatory, Baton Rouge, LA

Dash S. T. 2003 “Insect Safari”- Highland Road Park Observatory, Baton Rouge, LA

Dash S. T. 2003 “What the Hell is That? Explorations in Basic Morphology of a Nearctic Fulgorid” (course requirement) Entomology 7014

Dash S. T. 2003 “Dial W for Wing Evolution, The Controversy of Wing and Flight Development in Insects” Talk. Entomology 7008 Controversial topics in entomology (course requirement)

Dash S. T. 2002 “Comparison of Ant Fauna (HYMENOPTERA: FORMICIDAE) in Two Eastern Deciduous Forest Fragments” Poster and talk, University of Delaware

Dash S. T., M. A. Seymour & R. S Harris, III. 2002 “Repelling Fire Ants (*Solenopsis invicta* Buren); Testing Home Remedies” (course requirement) Entomology 7006

TEACHING EXPERIENCE.

2006-Summer UTEP Department of Biological Sciences Course: 1108 Organismal Biology Laboratory. Assistant Instructor (2 sections-33 students)

2006-May UTEP Department of Biological Sciences Course: 4395 Topics in Biology, Desert Ecosystems. Assistant Instructor; Entomology (14 students)

2006-Spring UTEP Department of Biological Sciences Course: 3416 Ecology Assistant Instructor (2 sections - 38 students)

2005-Fall UTEP Department of Biological Sciences Course: 1108 Organismal Biology Laboratory. Assistant Instructor (2 sections - 43 students)

2005-May LSU Ant Academy, short course on identification of ants in Louisiana. Coordinator/Instructor (20 participants)

2005-April LSU Ant Academy, short course on identification of ants in Louisiana. Coordinator/ Instructor (15 participants)

2005-March LSU Ant Academy, short course on identification of ants in Louisiana. Coordinator/Instructor (18 participants)

- 2005 Spring** LSU Department of Entomology Course: ENTM 4099
Insect Ecology, Teaching Assistant
- 2005-February** LSU Ant Academy, short course on identification of ants in Louisiana. Coordinator/Instructor (20 participants)
- 2005-January** LSU Ant Academy, short course on identification of ants in Louisiana. Coordinator/Instructor. (21 participants)
- 2004 Spring** LSU Department of Entomology Course: ENTM 4099
Insect Ecology: Guest lecturer
- 2003 Fall** LSU Department of Entomology Course: ENTM 2001
Insects in the Environment. Teaching Assistant (Presented 6 lectures)
- 2002 Fall** LSU Department of Entomology Course: ENTM 2001
Insects in the Environment. Laboratory Aide
- 2001 Fall** UD Department of Entomology and Applied Ecology Courses: ENTO 305 & ENTO 408/608 Entomology Laboratory and Field Taxonomy

MENTORING.

- 2006 Summer** Mentor for BRIDGES Student on research.
- 2006 Spring** Assisted an undergraduate researcher with a revision of the ant genus *Dinoponera*
- 2005 Mar** Advised three undergraduate students on a class research project focused on temperature and foraging activity of ants
- 2005-Feb** Advised two undergraduate researchers on independent projects
“Examining the interspecific aggression of red imported fire and argentine ants”
- 2004-Apr-May** Advised five undergraduate students (BIOL 1001) on an independent research “Interspecific competition between red imported fire and argentine ants”

EDUCATION EXPERIENCE.

- 2005 May** Invited lecture on insect biodiversity. Lee High School, Baton Rouge LA
- 2005 Apr** Presented two informal “show-n-tell” of insects to preschool classes. St. James Episcopal Church Day School, Baton Rouge, LA
- 2005 Apr** Louisiana science and engineering fair. Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA. Judge for junior competition in environmental sciences
- 2005-Jan** Presented two informal talks to freshman and honors sophomore biology) for career day at Lansdowne High School, Baltimore, MD
- 2001** University of Delaware’s AG-Day: Insect Displays, Wildlife Conservation Club in conjunction with Philadelphia Zoo public outreach program.

ACTIVITIES.

- LSU Graduate Student Representative 2003-2005
Member of ESA 2004-current
LSU Entomology Club President 2003-2004
LSU Entomology Club Member. 2002-2005
University of Delaware Entomology Club Board member 2001-2002.
University of Delaware Wildlife Conservation Club: Treasurer 1999-2002.