

Richard Ryan Jones

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Curriculum Vitae

EDUCATION

- Master of Science, Integrated Biology, August 2017 – present: University of Colorado - Denver, Denver, Colorado
- Bachelor of Science, Biology, August 2009 – May 2013: Hope College, Holland, Michigan

HONORS / AWARDS

American Arachnological Society Student Travel Award - June 2019
3rd Place “Best Poster in Natural Sciences Award” - May 2019
University of Colorado Denver Graduate School Travel Award - Jan 2019
University of Colorado Denver Integrative Biology Department Travel Grant - Jan 2019
University of Colorado Denver College of Liberal Arts & Sciences (CLAS) Travel Grant - Oct 2018
American Arachnological Society Student Research Grant - May 2018
Hope College Distinguished Scholar Award - 2009-10, 2011-12, 2012-13

WORK EXPERIENCE

Denver Museum of Nature & Science, Denver, Colorado.

Graduate Research Assistant (August 2017 - present)

- Assisting Dr. Paula Cushing in the taxonomic revision of Eremobatidae family of Solifugae (Arachnida) as well as a systematic revision of previous phylogenomic work (Cushing et al. 2015) within the Eremobatidae family.

University of Colorado – Denver, Denver, Colorado

Graduate Teaching Assistant (August 2017 - present)

- Supervise and instruct undergraduate students in General Biology I & II labs.

State of Michigan, Department of Natural Resources – Muskegon, Michigan

Parks and Recreation Officer E8 (April 2015 – August 2017)

- Stewardship of natural resources within Muskegon State Park, routine facilities maintenance, emergency response & law enforcement, public education & management.

Hope College Department of Biology, Holland Michigan

Invertebrate Collections Technician (Jan 2012 – May 2012, Jan 2013 – May 2013)

- Identify, label, prepare, and incorporate incoming arthropod specimens into Hope College collections.

Michigan Butterflies, LLC, Jenison, Michigan

Intern (Jan 2011 – Dec 2011)

- Create informational material and engage the public to increase awareness and engagement to counteract the decline of Monarch butterfly populations within Michigan.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Hope College, PI: Dr. Thomas Bultman (Oct 2016 - May 2017)

- Unpublished data: Identified arthropod samples collected via vacuum sampling from a variety of microhabitats to assemble potential trophic interactions.

Hope College, PI: Dr. Kathy Winnett-Murray (Nov 2016 - May 2017)

- Project Title: “Wildlife Use Patterns in a Constructed Wetland”

Denver Museum of Nature & Science, PI: Dr. Paula Cushing

- Project Title: “North American camel spiders (Arachnida, Solifugae, Eremobatidae): systematic revision and biogeography of an understudied taxon”

Oral & Poster Presentations

2017

Oral - Guest Lecturer, Animal Behavior Course, University of Colorado – Denver:

- “Phototaxis and Mechanisms of Prey Capture in Solifugae”

2018

Oral - Invited Speaker, Student Presentation Series, University of Colorado – Denver:

- “Progressing Backwards: The Challenge of Major Taxonomic Revision in North American Solifugae”

2019

Poster - International Congress of Arachnology, Christchurch, New Zealand:

- “Morphology of Male Abdominal Ctenidia in North American Solifugae”

Poster - Research and Creative Activities Symposium, University of Colorado - Denver:

- “Morphology of Male Abdominal Ctenidia in North American Solifugae”
- Awarded 3rd place “Best Poster in Natural Sciences”

Oral - American Arachnological Society, Lexington, Virginia:

- “Morphology of Male Abdominal Ctenidia in North American Solifugae”

Volunteering & Outreach

Denver Museum of Nature & Science (DMNS)

- Member’s Night – Arachnology Showcase – Oct 2017, Sept 2018
- Visiting School Groups – Basic spider biology – Oct 2018
- DMNS Summer Science Camp - Adaptation & Camouflage in Insects - June 2019

Teller Elementary School Science Fair Judge - Jan 2019

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS / AFFILIATIONS

American Arachnological Society, 2017 – present

International Society of Arachnology, 2017 – present

PERSONAL MEMBERSHIPS / AFFILIATIONS

Phi Sigma Kappa Fraternity - Hope College (active Mar 2011 - May 2013)

- Scholarship Chair (Aug 2011 - May 2012)
- Philanthropy Chair (Aug 2011 - May 2012)
- Vice President (Aug 2012 - May 2013)
- Alumni Chapter Advisor (Jan 2014 - Feb 2015)

Hope College Rugby Football Club - Hope College (active Mar 2010 - May 2013)

- Match Secretary (Aug 2011 - May 2012)
- Vice President (Aug 2012 - Dec 2012)
- President (Jan 2013 - May 2013)

Denver Harlequins Rugby Football Club (active Aug 2017 - present)