

Leslie E. Decker

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Appointments

- 2018-Current** **Postdoctoral Fellow, Stanford University**, Biology Department
Mentor: Tadashi Fukami
- 2013** **Research Field Technician**, Cornell University, Geber Lab
- 2010-2013** **Research Technician**, Cornell University, Kessler Lab

Education

- 2013-2018** **Ph.D., University of Michigan**, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. *Plant Quality Mediates the Response of Disease to Global Environmental Change.*
Chair: Mark D. Hunter
Committee: Meghan Duffy, Inés Ibáñez, Knute Nadelhoffer
- 2009-2013** **B.A., Cornell University**, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
cum laude in Biology
Advisor: André Kessler

Publications

- 2018** **Decker, L.E.**, de Roode, J.C. and Hunter, M.D. Elevated Atmospheric Concentrations of Carbon Dioxide Reduce Monarch Tolerance and Increase Parasite Virulence by Altering the Medicinal Properties of Milkweeds. *Ecology Letters*. DOI: 10.1111/ele.13101
***selected press coverage:** *San Francisco Chronicle, The Weather Channel, Science News, Earth.com, WDET Detroit, onEarth from NRDC, Wildlife.org*

Manuscripts [Submitted and Preparation]

Decker, L.E., de Roode, J.C., Soule, A.J. ‡ and Hunter, M.D. Managing Defense and Evasion from Predators in a Changing World. *Under review in Functional Ecology*.

Decker, L.E. and Hunter, M.D. Variation Among Individual Milkweed Species, Not Elevated CO₂, Influences the Relationship Between Plant Resistance and Tolerance. *Submitted to Journal of Ecology*

Decker, L.E., Jeffrey, C.S., Smilanich, A.M., de Roode, J.C., Oschenrider, K.M., Potts, A.S. ‡, and Hunter, M.D. Consequences of environmentally-mediated tolerance and immunity for disease in a changing world. *In prep.*

‡denotes mentored undergraduate

Awards and Fellowships

2017	Helen Olson Brower Memorial Fellowship in Environmental Studies
2014	Honorable Mention, NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program

Grants

2017	NSF Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant (DDIG)	\$20,097
2017	Rackham Graduate Student Research Grant	\$3,000
2017	Nancy W. Walls Award for Fieldwork	\$2,611
2016	Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Block Grant, UM	\$1,377
2015	Gates Fund for Outstanding Graduate Students	\$5,055
2015	Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Block Grant, UM	\$2,962
2014	Women's National Farm & Garden Foundation Fellowship	\$5,112
2014	Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Block Grant, UM	\$2,350
2014	Rackham Graduate Student Research Grant	\$1,500

Invited Presentations

2018	L. E. Decker. <i>Community ecology in a changing world: Lessons from the Monarch Butterfly.</i> University of Michigan Biological Station Summer Lecture Series. Pellston, MI
2017	L. E. Decker, de Roode, J. C. and Hunter, M. D. <i>Changes in monarch host tolerance and parasite virulence under elevated atmospheric CO₂.</i> North Central Branch of the Entomological Society of America Meeting. Indianapolis, IN.

Presentations

2017	L. E. Decker, de Roode, J. C. and Hunter, M. D. August 2017. <i>Diet quality-induced changes in host tolerance to infection and parasite virulence under elevated atmospheric CO₂.</i> Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting: a paper presentation. Portland, OR.
2017	L. E. Decker. <i>Plant quality-induced changes in herbivore tolerance to infection and parasite virulence under elevated atmospheric CO₂.</i> Gordon Research Conference in Plant-Herbivore Interactions: a poster presentation. Ventura, CA.
2017	L. E. Decker. Disease in a changing world: Lessons from the monarch butterfly. Camp Michigania, Alumni Association, University of Michigan, Boyne City, MI.
2017	L. E. Decker. Disease in a changing world: Lessons from the monarch butterfly. Cheboygan County Library, Cheboygan, MI.
2016	L. E. Decker, de Roode, J. C. and Hunter, M. D. <i>The effects of elevated atmospheric CO₂ concentration on a parasite of monarch butterflies: a focus</i>

- on tolerance to disease*. Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting: a paper presentation. Fort Lauderdale, FL.
- 2015 **L. E. Decker**. *Host-parasite interactions in a changing world*. University of Michigan Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Departmental Seminar, Ann Arbor, MI.
- 2015 **L. E. Decker**. *A Bitter Pill: Exploring our natural pharmacy and its future*. Society of Les Voyageurs, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI.
- 2013 **L. E. Decker**. *Does drought stress compromise a specific compensatory response to herbivory?* Cornell University Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology's Honors Candidate Seminar, Ithaca, NY.

Certificates and Training

- 2018 **Graduate Teaching Certificate**, UM Center for Research on Learning & Teaching: *Attended pedagogy seminars, took an education course, underwent a class observation & consultation, collaborated with a faculty mentor to design a lecture and paired discussion activity, and prepared a teaching philosophy.*
- 2017 **NSF Science Communication Fellow**, UM Museum of Natural History: *Attended multiple training sessions on science communication, designed an inquiry-based activity about my dissertation, regularly presented this activity during Museum events.*

Teaching

Graduate Student Instructor:

- 2017 (W) Environmental Physiology of Animals (BIO 256), UM
- 2016 (F) General Ecology (BIO 281), UM
- 2015 (W) Introduction Biology Laboratory (BIO 173), UM
- 2014 (W) Introduction to EEB (BIO 171), UM
- 2013 (F) Introduction to EEB (BIO 171), UM

Graduate Student Mentor: *trained, observed and mentored new graduate student instructors teaching for the first time in the Program in Biology.*

- 2017 (W) Introduction to EEB (BIO 171), UM
- 2016 (F) Graduate Student Mentor (MCDB 801)
- 2015 (W) Graduate Student Mentor (MCDB 801)

Guest Lectures

- 2017 Environmental Physiology of Animals (BIO 256)
- 2016 General Ecology (BIO 281)
- 2015 General Ecology (BIO 281)

Mentoring

- 2017-2018 **Brennan Schilling:** undergraduate research assistant, UM
- 2017-2018 **Abigail Potts:** undergraduate research assistant, one field season at UMBS, Honors Thesis, UM (Now a graduate student in EEB at UM).
- 2017 **Graham Bevier:** undergraduate research assistant, UM
- 2015-2018 **Abrianna Soule:** Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program mentee, Honors Thesis, UM
- 2015 **Yitong Yang:** undergraduate research assistant, one field season at UMBS, UM
- 2014 **Jordan McMahon:** undergraduate research assistant, one field season at UMBS, UM

Service and Outreach

- 2018 **Peer Reviewer:** *Animal Migration*
- 2018 **Student Representative:** Early Career Scientist Symposium Committee, UM. *Met regularly to select presenters for the 2018 Symposium.*
- 2017-2018 **Group Leader:** Association for Women in Science Mentor, UM. *Met bi-weekly to discuss common issues and associated primary literature for women in science.*
- 2017 **Volunteer Presenter:** STEM Career Fair, Detroit, MI
Gave a presentation during the STEM career fair at a Detroit Public School
- 2016-2017 **Elected Student Representative:** Executive Committee EEB, UM
Met regularly to discuss matters pertaining to the operation and organization of the department.
- 2016-2017 **Student Representative:** Faculty Search Committee, EEB, UM
Reviewed applications, participated in the candidate interview process, organized graduate student meetings and feedback, presented to faculty
- 2016 **Presenter:** Earth Week, Cheboygan, MI
Presented an interactive activity at rural Northern MI high schools
- 2015-2016 **Coach:** Science Olympiad, Ypsilanti, MI
Coached two pairs of students through the Fossils, and Invasive Species events. Wrote regional competition exam.
- 2015 **Presenter:** Science Café, Museum of Natural History, UM
Co-led an informal, public, scientific group discussion event
- 2014-2015 **Organizer & Presenter:** Future U, UM
Designed and implemented interactive three-hour sessions with 7th grade students from underserved schools in the Detroit area three times a year.
- 2014-2015 **Elected Student Representative:** Social Committee, UM
Organized departmental holiday parties and other events.
- 2011-2013 **Peer Mentor:** Cornell's Undergraduate Research Board, CU
Advised freshmen and sophomores searching for research positions

Professional Membership

Ecological Society of America
Entomological Society of America
Association for Women in Science (AWIS)
Graduate Women in Science (GWIS), Omega Chapter
Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation
Sigma Xi

Media Coverage of Research

University of Michigan News, Imagine Magazine, Detroit Free Press, University of Michigan Biological Station News, Seeker, EcoWatch, WXYZ-TV Detroit, Interesting Engineering, San Francisco Chronicle, The Weather Channel, Science News, Earth.com, WDET Detroit, onEarth from NRDC, Wildlife.org.