Erika R. Moore-Pollard, PhD (she/her)

University of Connecticut
Ecology & Evolutionary Biology
75 N. Eagleville Road, Unit 3043
Storrs, Connecticut, 06269, USA

E-mail: moore.erika.r@gmail.com
Website: ermoore-pollard.com
GitHub: github.com/erika-r-moore
Bluesky:@erikarmoore11.bsky.social

EDUCATION

Ph.D., University of Memphis – Biology **2018 – 2023**
"Investigating the impact of reticulate evolution and paralogy in phylogenomic studies using the complex genus *Packera* (Asteraceae: Senecioneae)"
Advisor: Dr. Jennifer Mandel

B.S., University of Tennessee, Knoxville – Ecology and Evolutionary Biology **2014 – 2018**

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE & ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Post-Doctoral Researcher **2025 – Current**
Advisor: Karolina Heyduk, University of Connecticut

Post-Doctoral Researcher **2024 – 2025**
Advisor: Jennifer Mandel, University of Memphis

Graduate Research Assistant **2023**
Advisor: Jennifer Mandel, University of Memphis

Graduate Teaching Assistant **2018 – 2022**
University of Memphis

Lab Manager and Research Assistant **2018**
Susan Kalisz Lab, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Undergraduate Research Assistant **2014 – 2018**
Susan Kalisz Lab, Jen Schweitzer and Joe Bailey Lab, Elena Shpak Lab; University of Tennessee, Knoxville

PUBLICATIONS

 # Indicates undergraduate student that I mentored
** Indicates co-first author*

9. C.F. Keller, **E.R. Moore-Pollard**, R. McCauley. 2025. Taxonomic revision of the *Packera crocata/dimorphophylla* (Asteraceae: Senecioneae) complex in the southern Rocky Mountains. *Journal of the Botanical Research Institute of Texas*: 19(1). DOI: 10.17348/jbrit.v19.i2.1399.
8. A. Yocca, M. Akinyuwa, N. Bailey, B. Cliver, H. Estes, A. Guillemette, O. Hasannin, J. Hutchison, W. Jenkins, I. Kaur, R.R. Khanna, M. Loftin, L. Lopes, **E.R. Moore-Pollard**, O. Olofintila, G.O. Oyebode, J. Patel, P. Thapa, M. Waldinger, J. Zhang, Q. Zhang, L. Goertzen, S. Carey, H. Hargarten, J. Mattheis, H. Zhang, T. Jones, L. Boston, J. Grimwood, S. Ficklin, L. Honaas, A. Harkess. A chromosome-scale assembly for 'd'Anjou' pear. 2024. *G3*: jkae003. DOI: 10.1093/g3journal/jkae003. **Cover image**.
7. **E.R. Moore-Pollard**, D.S. Jones, J.R. Mandel. Compositae-ParaLoss-1272: Complementary sunflower specific probe-set reduces paralogs in phylogenomic analyses of complex systems. 2024. *Applications in Plant Sciences*. DOI: 10.1002/aps3.11568.
6. J.R. Mandel, **E.R. Moore-Pollard**, J.M. Bonifacino. The Reinvention of Compositae: Vicki Funk's legacy in the systematics of the largest plant family on Earth. 2023. *International Journal of Plant Sciences*: 184(5). DOI: 10.1086/725047.
5. **E.R. Moore-Pollard** & J.R. Mandel. Packed with *Packera*: Brief history of the "aureoid *Senecio*" subgroup classification. 2023. *Capitulum* 2(2): 51-58. DOI: 10.53875/capitulum.02.2.04.
4. **E.R. Moore**, C.M. Siniscalchi, J.R. Mandel. Reevaluating genetic diversity and structure of *Helianthus verticillatus* (Asteraceae) after the discovery of new populations. 2022. *Castanea* 86(2), 196-213. DOI: 10.2179/0008-7475.86.2.196. **Cover image**; **Southern Appalachian Botanical Society Richard and Minnie Windler Award** (DOI: 10.2179/0008-7475.87.1.147).
3. J.M. Bonifacino, J.R. Mandel, A. Moore, **E.R. Moore**, B. Loeuille, L. Roeble. Capitulum: The Compositae Newsletter reloaded. 2021. *Taxon* 70(5): 1156-1156. DOI: 10.1002/tax.12571.
2. **E.R. Moore**. What in the whorled: The rediscovery of *Helianthus verticillatus* Small (Heliantheae) over 100 years later. 2021. *Capitulum* 1(1): 61-64. DOI: 10.53875/capitulum.01.1.07.

1. C.M. Siniscalchi, R.D. Edwards, J. Gomez#, **E.R. Moore**, J.R. Mandel. Photosynthesis metabolism in Asteraceae: current knowledge and future directions. 2021. *Taxon* 70(2), 339-350. DOI: 10.1002/tax.12426.

In-revision

D.S. Jones, R. Selby, A.C. Willoughby, E. Yaklich, P.J. Sandoval, A.T. DiBattista, J. Baczynski, V. Gurung, A.C. Crook, A.-O. Roman, F. Wang, T. Zhang, **E. Moore-Pollard**, R. Schuld, J.R. Mandel, P. Elomaa, J.M. Burke, J. Santiago, Z.L. Nimchuk. Floral innovation through modifications in stem cell peptide signaling. Submitted to *Science*.
bioRxiv: 10.1101/2025.06.27.661788v1

C.M. Siniscalchi, J. Bonfim e Cândido, **E.R. Moore-Pollard**, J.L. Gomez#, S. Dahal, J.R. Pirani, R.A. Folk, J.R. Mandel, B. Loeuille. Phylogenomics reveal widespread ancient hybridization in the evolution of Lychnophorinae (Vernonieae, Asteraceae). Submitted to *Taxon.*

P. Ellestad*, **E.R. Moore-Pollard***, C.M. Siniscalchi, R. Thapa, L.E. Watson, J.M. Bonifacino, J.R. Mandel. Ancient hybridization and phylogenetic discordance: Exploring evolutionary complexity in Asteraceae. Submitted to *Applications in Plant Sciences.*

Under review

E.R. Moore-Pollard, P. Ellestad, J.R. Mandel**.** Phylogenomic challenges in polyploid-rich lineages: Insights from orthology inference and reticulation methods using the complex genus *Packera*. Under review at *Systematic Biology*.
bioRxiv: 10.1101/2025.09.14.676143

Under consideration

E.R. Moore-Pollard*, P. Ellestad*, B.R. Cliver*, J. Baczyński, M.D. Pollard, Z. Meharg, S. Drewry, A. Harkess, Z. Nimchuk, J.M. Burke, D.S. Jones, J.R. Mandel. Gene duplication dynamics and regulatory evolution shape the diversification of Asteraceae. Under consideration at *Nature Plants*.
bioRxiv: 10.1101/2025.10.29.685401

Unpublished

E.R. Moore-Pollard, J.R. Mandel. Resolving evolutionary relationships in the groundsels: phylogenomics, divergence time estimates, and biogeography of *Packera* (Asteraceae: Senecioneae). *bioRxiv.* DOI: 10.1101/2023.07.18.549592.

E.R. Moore-Pollard, J.R. Mandel. From paralogy to hybridization: Investigating causes of underlying phylogenomic discordance using the complex genus *Packera* (Senecioneae; Asteraceae). *bioRxiv.* DOI: 10.1101/2023.08.14.553290.

***Note**: Prior to 2023 I published as Erika R. Moore.*

SELECTED COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS

Asteraceae PAFTOL: Large phylogenomic and systematic study (~2,000 taxa) tackling the evolutionary relationships of Asteraceae while utilizing multiple genomic methods (e.g., target-enrichment and genome assembly data) to address issues with paralogy in phylogenomic studies.
Institutions involved: Kew Royal Botanical Garden (UK), Institut Botànic de Barcelona (Spain), Mississippi State University (USA), University of Memphis (USA).

DecodADAPT: A Spanish Science Foundation funded project named DecodADAPT investigating the drivers of floral diversity and evolution on the Canary Islands. I am listed as a **Key Collaborator** on the grant.
Institutions involved: Hassan II Institute of Agronomy and Veterinary Medicine (Morocco), Instituto Canario de Investigaciones Agrarias (Spain), Instituto de Productos Naturales y Agrobiología (Spain), Natural History Museum (UK), Universidad de La Laguna (Spain), Universidad de Las Palmas de Gran Canaria (Spain), Université Ibn Zohr (Morocco), University of Memphis (USA)., University of Southampton (UK).

North American Astereae: Collaboration using taxonomy, systematics, phylogenomics, and computational approaches to understand the evolutionary relationships and historical dispersal patterns of tribe Astereae (Asteraceae) taxa across North America.
Institutions involved: Aarhus University (Denmark), California Polytechnic University (USA), Embrapa Clima Temperado (Brazil), Kew Royal Botanical Gardens (UK), Louisiana State University (USA), Universidad de la República (Uruguay), Universidad Nacional de La Plata (Argentina), University of Memphis (USA), University of Montreal (Canada), University of Oklahoma (USA), University of Tennessee (USA), Wichita State University (USA), University of Victoria (Canada).

Improve integration of target-enrichment data with long-read sequencing: Collaboration developing a novel method and pipeline to generate long-read, target-enrichment sequencing data from Oxford Nanopore technologies (MinION).
Institutions involved: Texas Tech University (USA), University of Memphis (USA).

HONORS, AWARDS, & FUNDING (Total USD $9,720)

Future Faculty Academy, Plant Postdocs – Selected participant in a competitive professional development program for early-career plant scientists (2025 cohort) **2025**
University of Memphis Graduate Student Association Travel Funds – $1,000 total **2022 & 2023**
Botanical Society of America Student Travel Award – $500 **2023**
American Society of Plant Taxonomists Travel Grant – $670 total **2019 & 2023**
Southern Appalachian Botanical Society Conference Support Award – $450 total **2022 & 2023**
Southern Appalachian Botanical Society Richard and Minnie Windler Award – $500 **2022**
for "Best systematics paper published in *Castanea* during the previous year"
Southern Appalachian Botanical Society Student Presentation Award – $300 **2022**
for "Best oral presentation" at Association of Southeastern Biologists conference 2022
Association of Southeastern Biologists Student Research Award – $1,000 **2022**
for "Best oral presentation and associated published paper" at Association of Southeastern Biologists conference 2022
Center for Biodiversity Research Seed Grant – $4,500 total **2019 & 2022**
Botany Conference 2022 Symposium Funding – $500 **2022**
University of Memphis College of Arts and Sciences Travel Enrichment Fund – $300 **2019**

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

Ohio State University: Molecular Genetics departmental seminar series – via Zoom – Talk **2025**
"When genomes collide: polyploidy, hybridization, and evolutionary innovation in the sunflower family"
Kew Royal Botanical Gardens: Advances in Compositae phylogenomics – London, UK – Talk **2024**
"New Compositae specific probe set reduces paralogs in complex systems"
Memphis Area Master Gardeners – Memphis, TN – Talk **2024**
"Herbaria: the foundation of plant research"
Plant and Animal Genome Conference: Compositae Session – San Diego, CA – Talk **2024**
"Systematics, Evolution, and Genomics in the Sunflower Family"
Association of Southeastern Biologists Workshop: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee on Human Diversity – Panelist **2022 & 2023**
University of Memphis Department of Biological Sciences Workshop: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee – Panelist **2022**
Association of Southeastern Biologists: Plant Conservation Genetics symposium – Little Rock, AK – Talk **2022**
"Reevaluating genetic diversity and structure of *Helianthus verticillatus* (Asteraceae) after the discovery of new populations"
Georgia Gwinnet College – via Zoom – Talk **2020**
"Graduate school and research"

CONTRIBUTED PRESENTATIONS

Sussex Symposium at Yale University – New Haven, CT – Talk **2025**
"Comparative genomics in Asterales: Foundations for understanding evolutionary and functional dynamics in Asteraceae"
Botany Conference – Palm Springs, CA – Talk **2025**
"Phylogenomic challenges in polyploid-rich lineages: Insights from orthology inference and reticulation methods using the complex genus *Packera* (Asteraceae)"
Botany Conference – Palm Springs, CA – Talk
"Comparative genomics in Asterales: Foundations for understanding evolutionary and functional dynamics in Asteraceae"
TICA Talks 2025 webinar series – Virtual – Talk **2025**
"The missing link: Bridging evolutionary gaps in Asteraceae with a chromosome-scale assembly of *Schlechtendalia luzulifolia* (Barnadesieae)"

International Botanical Congress Conference – Madrid, Spain – Poster **2024**
"New Compositae specific probe set reduces paralogs in complex systems"
Plant and Animal Genome Conference – San Diego, CA – Poster **2024**
"New Compositae specific probe set reduces paralogs in complex systems"
Botany Conference – Boise, ID – Talk **2023**
"Compositae-ParaLoss-1272: Complementary sunflower specific probe-set reduces issues with paralogs in complex systems"
Botany Conference – Boise, ID – Poster **2023**
"Investigating underlying discordance and hybridization among nuclear phylogenies of *Packera* (Asteraceae)"
Association of Southeastern Biologists Conference – Winston-Salem, NC – Talk **2023**
"Phylogenomics, divergence time estimates, and biogeography of *Packera* (Asteraceae: Senecioneae)"
Association of Southeastern Biologists Conference – Winston-Salem, NC – Poster **2023**
"Compositae in a Crate: an outreach initiative to promote plant awareness"
Botany Conference – Anchorage, AK – Talk **2022**
"Reconstructing evolutionary relationships in the genus *Packera* (Asteraceae: Senecioneae)"
Botany Conference – Online – Poster **2021**
"Reconstructing evolutionary relationships in the genus *Packera* (Asteraceae: Senecioneae)
Evolution Conference – Online – Talk **2021**
"Understanding the systematics and evolutionary history of the genus *Packera* (Asteraceae: Senecioneae)"
Association of Southeastern Biologists Conference – Online – Talk **2021**
"Reevaluating genetic diversity and structure of *Helianthus verticillatus* (Asteraceae) after the discovery of new populations"
The International Compositae Alliance Talks – Online – Talk **2021**
"Reevaluating genetic diversity and structure of *Helianthus verticillatus* (Asteraceae) after the discovery of new populations"
Botany Conference – Tucson, Arizona – Poster **2019**
"Newly discovered population of Helianthus verticillatus (Asteraceae) found in Mississippi is genetically distinct from other known populations"

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Journal Editor
Special Issue Editor – *Applications in Plant Sciences* Special Issue: "Beyond phylogenomics: Innovative applications of target capture data" **2025 – 2027**
Reviewing Editor – *Applications in Plant Sciences* **2024 – Current**
Associate Editor – *Capitulum* **2021 – Current**
Special Issue Editor – *International Journal of Plant Sciences* Special Issue: "A Botanist at the Extreme: Honoring the Great Contributions of Dr. Vicki A. Funk" **2022 – 2023**
Reviewer
Doctoral Dissertation reviewer – Federal University of Pernambuco, Brazil **2025**
Journals *APPS*, *Castanea, Cladistics, HortScience*, *Evolutionary Applications*, *Molecular Biology and Evolution, Systematic Botany, Taxon* **2022 – 2025**

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching
University of Memphis
Biology of Organisms Lab – non-Biology major course **2018 – 2022**
Course-based Undergraduate Research Experiences (CURE) – Synthetic Biology **2021**
Guest Lecturer
University of Connecticut
Plant Structural Diversity, Dr. Karolina Heyduk – Flowers **2025**
University of Memphis
Honors Biology I, Dr. Jaime Sabel – Meiosis **2024**
Molecular Ecology and Conservation, Dr. Jennifer Mandel – Conservation Genetics **2023**

WORKSHOPS

Mentoring workshops

University of Memphis

- Coding workshop (1 week) – mentored four graduate students on bioinformatics in the Biological Sciences Department **2024**
- Lab training (1 week) – trained three visiting high schoolers and one undergraduate student (Rice University) on wet lab and computer work **2023**
- Phylogenomics coding workshop (5-weeks) – mentored four undergraduate and two graduate students in the Biological Sciences Department **2023**

UNDERGRADUATE MENTEES

Victoria Holyfield, University of Memphis	**2023 – 2025**
Bria Gooden, University of Memphis	**2023 – 2025**
Mariah Mattison, University of Memphis	**2023 – 2024**
Paris Fouche, University of Memphis	**2023 – 2024**
Edgardo Cruz-Martinez, University of Memphis	**2023 – 2024**
Laura Lightbody, University of Memphis	**2023**
Sam Drewry, University of Memphis	**2022 – 2023**
Jorge Gomez, University of Memphis	**2019 – 2021**
Paige Murin, University of Memphis	**2018 – 2019**
Byanca Moreno, University of Tennessee, Knoxville	**2016 – 2018**

POST-BACCALAUREATE MENTEES

Dantony Lewis, University of Connecticut, NSF Research and Mentoring for Postbaccalaureates (RaMP) scholar	**2025 – Current**
Keiana Fields, University of Memphis	**2022 – 2023**
Jorge Gomez, University of Memphis, NSF Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) scholar	**2021 – 2022**

CENTER OR SOCIETY POSITIONS

The International Compositae Alliance (TICA)	
TICA Talks webinar series organizer	**2025 – Current**
Botanical Society of America	
Early Career Advisory Board member	**2025 – Current**
Capitulum	
Associate Editor and Founding Editorial Board member	**2021 – Current**
Center for Biodiversity Research (University of Memphis)	
Research Facilitation Committee	**2019 – 2023**
Botany Conference Symposium organizer	**2021 – 2022**

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- American Society of Plant Taxonomists (ASPT)
- Botanical Society of America (BSA)
- International Association of Plant Taxonomist (IAPT)
- Tennessee Plant Conservation Alliance (TPCA)
- Association of Southeastern Biologists (ASB)
- Center for Biodiversity Research (CBio)
- Southern Appalachian Botanical Society (SABS)
- The International Compositae Alliance (TICA)

ORGANIZATION INVOLVEMENT

The International Compositae Alliance Compositae Journal Club, member	**2020 – 2024**
University of Memphis Book Club, organizer and member	**2020 – 2022**
University of Memphis Biology Graduate Student Association, Vice President	**2020 – 2021**
University of Memphis Botany Club, Secretary	**2018 – 2020**
University of Memphis Biology Graduate Student Association, Secretary	**2019 & 2020**
University of Memphis Committee for Diversity in Science, member	**2018 – 2019**
University of Memphis Journal Club, member	**2018 – 2019**
University of Memphis Writing Club, member	**2018 – 2019**

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND OUTREACH

NSF funded project for primary education students (“Compositae in a Crate”)	**2018 – Current**
University of Memphis Botany Club – various outreach opportunities	**2018 – 2024**
Overton Park – City Nature Challenge plant specialist	**2024**
Memphis Botanical Garden – Halloween Hike	**2018 & 2022**
Museum of Science and History (MoSH) STEAMFest – herbarium focused	**2021 & 2022**
Collect Japanese honeysuckle for Genomics Capstone class at West Virginia University	**2022**
University of Memphis Garden cleanup, CBio associated	**2021**
National Lab Day at University of Memphis	**2019**
International Women in Science Day events with local public schools, Memphis, TN	**2019**
“Waste Tire Cleanup Day” at T.O. Fuller State Park	**2019**
Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency Chronic Wasting Disease check sites	**2018 & 2019**
“Talk to a Botanist” Day at Campus School; Memphis, TN	**2018**