

**Erika R. Moore-Pollard, PhD**

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**EDUCATION**

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**University of Memphis**

*Ph.D. in Biology*

**2018 – 2023**

Dissertation title: *Investigating the impact of reticulate evolution and paralogy in phylogenomic studies using the complex genus Packera (Asteraceae: Senecioneae)*

**University of Tennessee**

*B.S. in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology*

**2014 – 2018**

**RESEARCH EXPERIENCE & ACADEMIC POSITIONS**

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Post-Doctoral Researcher, University of Connecticut

**2025 – Current**

*Advisor: Karolina Heyduk*

Post-Doctoral Researcher, University of Memphis

**2024 – 2025**

*Advisor: Jennifer Mandel*

Graduate Research Assistant, University of Memphis

**2023**

*Advisor: Jennifer Mandel*

Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of Memphis

**2018 – 2022**

Lab Manager and Research Assistant, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

**2018**

*Susan Kalisz Lab*

Undergraduate Research Assistant, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

**2014 – 2018**

*Susan Kalisz Lab, Jen Schweitzer and Joe Bailey Lab, Elena Shpak Lab*

**PUBLICATIONS**

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# Indicates undergraduate student that I mentored

\* Indicates co-first author

10. C.M. Siniscalchi, J.B. Cândido, **E.R. Moore-Pollard**, J.L. Gomez#, S. Dahal, J.R. Pirani, R.A. Folk, J.R. Mandel, B. Loeuille. 2026. Phylogenomics reveals widespread ancient hybridization in the evolution of Lychnophorinae (Vernonieae, Asteraceae). *Taxon*: 75: e70120. DOI: 10.1002/tax.70120.
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. Roebler. 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-press

- 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*. Accepted in *Systematic Biology*.
- 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. Accepted in *Applications in Plant Sciences*. **Cover Image**.

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

Under review

- E.V. McAssey, **E.R. Moore-Pollard**, C. Downs, K. Heyduk. Island-wide population genomic analysis of the coastal shrub, beach naupaka (*Scaevola taccada* L.), on O'ahu. Under review at *Annals of Botany*.

Pre-print

- 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.  
*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*. 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*. 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 \$10,220)**

Botanical Society of America Professional Member Travel Award – \$500	2026
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 for “Best systematics paper published in <i>Castanea</i> during the previous year”	2022
Southern Appalachian Botanical Society Student Presentation Award – \$300 for “Best oral presentation” at Association of Southeastern Biologists conference 2022	2022
Association of Southeastern Biologists Student Research Award – \$1,000 for “Best oral presentation and associated published paper” at Association of Southeastern Biologists conference 2022	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 “When genomes collide: polyploidy, hybridization, and evolutionary innovation in the sunflower family”	2025
Kew Royal Botanical Gardens: Advances in Compositae phylogenomics – London, UK – Talk “New Compositae specific probe set reduces paralogs in complex systems”	2024
Memphis Area Master Gardeners – Memphis, TN – Talk “Herbaria: the foundation of plant research”	2024
Plant and Animal Genome Conference: Compositae Session – San Diego, CA – Talk “Systematics, Evolution, and Genomics in the Sunflower Family”	2024
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, AR – Talk “Reevaluating genetic diversity and structure of <i>Helianthus verticillatus</i> (Asteraceae) after the discovery of new populations”	2022
Georgia Gwinnet College – via Zoom – Talk “Graduate school and research”	2020

## CONTRIBUTED PRESENTATIONS

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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 <i>Packera</i> (Asteraceae)”	
Botany Conference – Palm Springs, CA – Talk	2025
“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 <i>Schlechtendalia luzulifolia</i> (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 <i>Packera</i> (Asteraceae)”	
Association of Southeastern Biologists Conference – Winston-Salem, NC – Talk	2023
“Phylogenomics, divergence time estimates, and biogeography of <i>Packera</i> (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 <i>Packera</i> (Asteraceae: Senecioneae)”	
Botany Conference – Online – Poster	2021
“Reconstructing evolutionary relationships in the genus <i>Packera</i> (Asteraceae: Senecioneae)”	
Evolution Conference – Online – Talk	2021
“Understanding the systematics and evolutionary history of the genus <i>Packera</i> (Asteraceae: Senecioneae)”	
Association of Southeastern Biologists Conference – Online – Talk	2021
“Reevaluating genetic diversity and structure of <i>Helianthus verticillatus</i> (Asteraceae) after the discovery of new populations”	
The International Compositae Alliance Talks – Online – Talk	2021
“Reevaluating genetic diversity and structure of <i>Helianthus verticillatus</i> (Asteraceae) after the discovery of new populations”	
Botany Conference – Tucson, Arizona – Poster	2019
“Newly discovered population of <i>Helianthus verticillatus</i> (Asteraceae) found in Mississippi is genetically distinct from other known populations”	

## ACADEMIC SERVICE

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Journal Editor	
Special Issue Editor – <i>Applications in Plant Sciences</i> Special Issue: “Beyond phylogenomics: Innovative applications of target capture data”	2025 – 2027
Reviewing Editor – <i>Applications in Plant Sciences</i>	2024 – Current
Associate Editor – <i>Capitulum</i>	2021 – Current

Last update: June 1, 2026

Special Issue Editor – <i>International Journal of Plant Sciences</i> Special Issue: “A Botanist at the Extreme: Honoring the Great Contributions of Dr. Vicki A. Funk”	2022 – 2023
Reviewer	
American Society of Plant Taxonomists (ASPT) Graduate Student Research Grant reviewer	2026
Doctoral Dissertation reviewer – Federal University of Pernambuco, Brazil	2025
Journals <i>APPS, Castanea, Cladistics, Evolutionary Applications, Journal of Evolutionary Biology, HortScience, Molecular Biology and Evolution, Systematic Botany, Taprobanica, Taxon</i>	2022 – 2026
Conferences	
Botany 2026 – Colloquium organizer, “Beyond Phylogenomics: Innovative Applications of Target Capture Data” – Tucson, AZ	2025 – 2026
Botany 2025 – Session moderator, “Genetics” session – Palm Springs, CA	2025
Botany 2023 – Session moderator, “Phylogenomics I” session – Boise, ID	2023
Botany 2022 – Symposium organizer, “A Botanist at the Extreme: Honoring the Great Contributions of Dr. Vicki A. Funk” – Anchorage, AK	2021 – 2022

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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

## WORKSHOPS

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Mentoring workshops	
<i>University of Memphis</i>	
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

## POST-BACCALAUREATE MENTEES

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Dantony Lewis, University of Connecticut, NSF Research and Mentoring for Postbaccalaureate (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

## UNDERGRADUATE MENTEES

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Eilidh Ince, University of Connecticut	2026 – Current
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

Last update: June 1, 2026

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

### **CENTER OR SOCIETY POSITIONS**

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

### **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

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

### **ORGANIZATION INVOLVEMENT**

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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**

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NSF funded project for primary education students (“Compositae in a Crate”)	2018 – Current
University of Connecticut – Women in Math, Science, and Engineering Club (WiMSE) department tour guide	2026
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