

CHELSEA N. MILLER

cmiller3@uakron.org
cnicolem9@gmail.com
<https://chelseanicolemiller.com/>

The University of Akron
Department of Biology
Auburn Science and Engineering Ctr.
244 Sumner Street
Akron, OH 44325

EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Assistant Professor	Global Change Biology The University of Akron – Akron, OH Department of Biology	2023—Present
Postdoc	NSF Postdoctoral Research Fellowship Holden Forests and Gardens – Kirtland, OH Research Department, Community Ecology	2022—2023
Postdoc	Forest Entomology The University of Georgia – Athens, GA Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources	2022—2022
PhD	Ecology and Evolutionary Biology The University of Tennessee – Knoxville, TN Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Dissertation: “Seed dispersal differences and determinants of ranges of narrow endemic and widespread eastern North American trilliums”	May 2020
MS	Statistics The University of Tennessee – Knoxville, TN Intercollegiate Graduate Statistics Program	May 2020
BS	Biology University of Central Arkansas – Conway, AR Biology Department Minor in Interdisciplinary Studies	May 2013

PUBLICATIONS

Publications (§ = undergraduate coauthor)

Wilhelm, S., & **Miller, C.** 2026. Assessment of pollination ecology of two understudied native mustards and the potential for interference from invasive garlic mustard. *Journal of Pollination Ecology*. [https://doi.org/10.26786/1920-7603\(2026\)895](https://doi.org/10.26786/1920-7603(2026)895).

Dawson-Glass, E., Schiafo, R., **Miller, C. N.**, Kuebbing, S. E., & Stuble, K. L. 2025. Toward a comprehensive understanding of the phenological responses of non-native plants to climate warming: a review. *Annals of Botany*, mcaf008. <https://doi.org/10.1093/aob/mcaf008>.

Miller, C. N., and K. L. Stuble. 2024. Warm spring days are related to shorter durations of reproductive phenophases for understory forest herbs. *Ecology and Evolution* 2024;00: 1-23. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1002/ece3.70700>.

Miller, C. N., B. Barnes, S. Kinz§, S. Spinner, J. T. Vogt, E. McCarty, and K. J. K. Gandhi. 2023. Woodboring beetle (Buprestidae; Cerambycidae) responses to Hurricane Michael in variously damaged southeastern US pine plantations. *Forest Science*, 1-14. <https://doi.org/10.1093/forsci/fxac058>.

Miller, C. N., M. Papeş, E. Schilling, and C. Kwit. 2021. Reproductive traits explain occupancy of predicted distributions in a genus of eastern North American understory herbs. *Diversity and Distributions* 2021;00: 1–18. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ddi.13297>.

Miller, C. N., S. R. Whitehead, and C. Kwit. 2020. Effects of seed morphology and elaiosome chemical composition on attractiveness of five *Trillium* species to seed-dispersing ants. *Ecology and Evolution* 2020;00: 1–14. DOI:10.1002/ece3.6101.

Miller, C. N., H. Brabazon§, I. M. Ware, N. H. Kingsley§, and J. M. Budke. 2019. Bringing an Historic Collection into the Modern Era: Curating the J. K. Underwood Seed Collection at the University of Tennessee Herbarium (TENN). *Collection Forum* 32(1-2): 14-30.

Miller, C. N., and C. Kwit. 2018. Overall seed dispersal effectiveness is lower in endemic *Trillium* species than in their widespread congeners. *American Journal of Botany* 105(11): 1-11.

Valenta, K., **C. N. Miller**, S. K. Monckton, S. A. Styler, D. J. Jackson, A. D. Melin, C. A. Chapman, and M. J. Lawes. 2016. Fruit ripening signals and cues in a Madagascan dry forest: haptic indicators reliably indicate fruit ripeness to dichromatic lemurs. *Evolutionary Biology*, 1-12.

Chapters

Gandhi, K. J. K., **C. N. Miller**, P. J. Fornwalt, and J. M. Frank. 2021. Bark beetle outbreaks alter biotic components of forested landscapes. In: Gandhi, K. J. K., and Hofstetter, R. 2021. *Bark Beetle Management, Ecology, and Climate Change*.

PENDING GRANT PROPOSALS

Miller, C. N. Warming in Context: Habitat-Mediated Summer Responses of Forest Ant Colonies at Pymatuning. Submitted: February 23, 2026. Schwartz Early Career Fellowship, Pymatuning Laboratory of Ecology. (\$10,000).

Miller, C. N. CAREER: Trait-mediated responses and community dynamics of ant overwintering in a warmer world. Submitted: July 7, 2025. National Science Foundation CAREER. (\$1,052,825).

FUNDED GRANT PROPOSALS (TOTAL: \$173,922.75)

Roketenetz, L. & **Miller, C. N.** 2024. Institute of Museum of Library Sciences and Foundation for Advancement in Conservation Collections Assessment for Preservation (CAP) Program grant. (\$8000).

Miller, C. N. & R. L. Londrville. Ecological and physiological adaptations of acorn ants (*Temnothorax curvispinosis*) to winter conditions in response to urbanization and climate change. 2024. Faculty Research Competition, University of Akron (\$20,000).

Miller, C. N. Living collections as common gardens: integrating phenology and species interactions into future predictions of spring ephemeral distributions. 2020. National Science Foundation Postdoctoral Research Fellowship in Biology (\$138,000).

Miller, C. N. Modified species distribution modeling to detect dispersal limitation in endemic *Trillium*. 2018. L.R. Hesler Herbarium Student Research Award (\$1,822.75).

Miller, C. N. Investigating rarity in southeastern myrmecochores using distribution modelling and a study of seed dispersal ecology. 2018. UTK EEB Department (\$350).

Miller, C. N., H. Korotkin, C. Lash, A. Bruce., C. Kwit, and B. Ownley. 2016. Does the presence of entomopathogenic fungi on myrmecochorous seeds affect seed-handling and dispersal behaviors in *Aphaenogaster* ants? Botanical Society of America Graduate Student Research Award (\$500).

Miller, C. N. Investigating rarity in southeastern trilliums: combining comparative *in situ* and *ex situ* approaches. 2016. UTK EEB Department (\$750).

Miller, C. N. Seed biology and dispersal of rare, state-endangered southeastern trilliums: combining comparative *in situ* and *ex situ* approaches. 2015. Catherine H. Beattie Fellowship, Garden Club of America (\$4,500).

AWARDS, HONORS, AND SCHOLARSHIPS

NSF Postdoctoral Research Fellowship in Biology (\$138,000)	2022 - 2023
Outstanding Dissertation Award, Dept. EEB, UTK	2020
Oscar Roy Ashley Fellowship, UTK (\$4,000)	2019 - 2020
Ecological Society of America Student Section Travel Grant	2019
Graduate Student Council Travel Award, UTK	2019
Plant Research Center Travel Award, UTK	2019
Graduate Researchers in Evolutionary Biology and Ecology Travel	2019
Graduate Student Council Travel Award, UTK	2018
TENN Herbarium Graduate Research Assistantship, UTK (\$10,320)	2017 - 2018
Association of Southeastern Biologists Graduate Student Award	2017
Plant Research Center Travel Award, UTK	2017
Graduate Researchers in Evolutionary Biology and Ecology Travel	2017
Graduate Student Council Travel Award, UTK	2015
Graduate Teaching Assistantship, UTK (\$117,500)	2014 - 2020
Travel Abroad Grant, UCA (\$2,500)	2012
Travel Abroad Grant, UCA (\$3,000)	2011
Norbert O. Schedler Honors College Scholarship, UCA (\$65,000)	2009 - 2013

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

The University of Akron, Ohio, U.S.

Fall 2023 – present

Assistant Professor, Department of Biology

- **Special Topics: Global Change Biology (BIOL 495/695)**, an upper-level undergraduate/graduate course averaging 20 students per semester, providing an overview of the biogeochemical components of Earth Systems and a broad introduction to the field of Global Change Biology through an ecological lens.
- **General Ecology (BIOL 217)**, a sophomore-level course averaging 50 students per semester, providing an overview of modern ecology, with emphasis on global change, how we know what we know, and why it matters.
- **General Entomology (BIOL 451/551)**, an upper-level undergraduate/graduate course averaging 10 students per semester, providing a hands-on introduction to the biology, ecology and diversity of insects.

The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, U.S.

Fall 2017 – Spring 2020

Head Teaching Assistant, Ecology & Evolutionary Biology

- **BIOL 269: Ecology Field-Based Laboratory**, an upper-level undergraduate course averaging 60 students per semester, covering experimental design, manuscript preparation, oral presentations, field and laboratory ecological methods, and statistical analysis.
- **BIOL 115: Introduction to Plant Diversity**, a mid-level undergraduate course averaging 40 students per semester, introducing botanical taxonomy and physiology, microscopy, and experimental design.

The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, U.S.

Fall 2014 – Fall 2018

Teaching Assistant, Ecology & Evolutionary Biology

- **BIOL 101: Introduction to Biology I**
- **BIOL 102: Introduction to Biology II**
- **BIOL 150: Organismal and Ecological Biology**
- **BIOL 260: Ecology Lecture**
- **BIOL 426: Plant-Animal Interactions**

RESEARCH AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

NSF Postdoctoral Fellowship, Holden Arboretum, Kirtland, OH, U.S.

2022 - 2023

Advisor: Dr. Katie Stuble

- Designed and implemented an NSF-funded proposal (PRFB) to integrate phenology and biotic interactions into trait-based species distribution models to improve predictions of climate change-induced plant range shifts across a network of botanical gardens and arboreta.
- Collected data on phenology and plant-animal interactions in living gardens of spring ephemeral plants.
- Collected, organized, cleaned, and georeferenced publicly available occurrence data for plant species using georeferencing software.
- Performed species and trait distribution modeling using R.
- Collaborated broadly with diverse professionals across network of botanical gardens and arboreta (Holden Arboretum, Chicago Botanic Garden, Dawes Arboretum, Missouri Botanical Garden, Huntsville Botanical Garden).
- Recruited and trained public garden volunteers in the processes of data georeferencing, species distribution modeling, and phenology data collection.
- Performed statistical analyses using R, wrote and published scientific manuscripts, presented at regional and national meetings, mentored undergraduate and graduate students.

Postdoctoral Research, The University of Georgia, Athens, U.S.

2020 - 2022

Advisor: Dr. Kamal Gandhi

- Led projects studying the effects of catastrophic wind disturbances (hurricanes, tornadoes) on forest insect dynamics.
- Mastered taxonomic identification of Coleopterans; identified >20,000 specimens.
- Hiked into remote field sites, set up baited Lindgren funnel traps and panel traps for subcortical woodboring and bark beetles.
- Became familiar with forestry and forest entomology methodologies.
- Performed statistical analyses using R, wrote and published scientific manuscripts and a book chapter, presented at regional and national meetings, mentored undergraduate and graduate students.

Dissertation, The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, U.S.

2014 - 2020

Advisor: Dr. Charles Kwit

- Designed and implemented a project studying variation in seed dispersal efficacy among rare and common plants in genus *Trillium*. Located and hiked to remote field sites, performed seed dispersal observations totaling > 300 hrs, collected living colonies of *Aphaenogaster* ants, conducted laboratory preference experiments.

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- Designed and implemented a project studying interspecific variation in seed chemistry and morphology. Hiked to remote field sites, collected seed from wild populations, mastered use of ecological chemistry techniques (i.e., gas- and liquid-chromatography mass spectrometry).
 - Designed and implemented a project estimating fundamental and realized niches of rare and common *Trillium* species. Collected and cleaned data from online databases, mastered use of Maxent algorithm and ecological niche modeling, synthesized data from various public sources.
 - Performed statistical analyses using R and Matlab, wrote and published scientific manuscripts, wrote and obtained scientific grants and fellowships, presented at regional and national meetings, mentored undergraduate students.

Research Assistantship, The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, U.S.

2017

Advisor: Dr. Jessica Budke

- Herbarium Research Assistant
- Organized, curated, and digitized an historic seed collection.
- Mastered photographic microscopy (z-z stacking), coordinated the development of a dedicated webpage for seed images, mastered herbarium curation methods, wrote and published a scientific case study.

Camp Robinson Military Base, North Little Rock, AR, U.S.

2013 - 2014

Assistant Natural Resources Manager, Natural Resources Dept.

- Led field/laboratory components of management and research projects conducted by Natural Resources Dept.
- Implemented aquatic macroinvertebrate sampling, rapid bioassessment of streams, small mammal trapping, herpetological sampling, invasive vegetation management, game species monitoring, standard habitat transects.
- Seasonal wild land management burns and pest management duties.
- Hiked into remote field sites with gear.
- Analyzed data and prepared written project updates for Natural Resources Department.

Virginia Dept. of Game and Inland Fisheries, Wachapreague, VA, U.S.

2013

Waterbird & Wading Bird Technician

- Monitored populations of marine water and wading birds: nest, egg, chick, and incubating adult counting techniques and band resighting.
- Mastered use of binoculars and sighting scope in the field, bird identification skills, hand-held GPS.
- Daily travel via motorboat; hiked into remote field sites with gear.

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- Hand-captured immature birds for banding.

Masoala National Park, Madagascar

2012

Biological Technician

- Assisted in a population dynamics field survey of endemic carnivores in rainforests of Northeastern Madagascar (Masoala National Park).
- Collaborated with Malagasy WCS workers and civilians.
- Traveled via boat and foot to remote field sites; camped for >6 weeks in rainforest (extremely rugged terrain).
- Performed camera trap survey transects, forest habitat transects, nocturnal lemur transects, small mammal trapping.

University of Central Arkansas, Conway, AR, U.S.

2009 - 2013

Biological Technician, Aquatic Ecology Lab

- Participated in studies of macroinvertebrates in the sediment of Gulf streams with emphasis on effects of natural gas fracking. Recorded aquatic habitat transects, collected aquatic samples.
- Participated in studies of leaf decomposition in wetland habitats. Planted leaf bags, mastered use of HOBO loggers.
- Participated in studies of the movement patterns of Cyprinidae in intermittent headwater streams. Hiked to remote field sites, camped in rugged terrain, collected, tagged, and recorded mass, length, and sex of fish.
- Assisted in follow-up study to 2009 Arkansas Game and Fish snakehead eradication in Brinkley, AR. Identified common freshwater fish, mastered use of electroshocker.

PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED LECTURES

Miller, C. N., Wagner, A., & Stuble, K. L. 2026. How cross-institutional collaborations can facilitate and enhance climate change research and outreach: a case study in NE Ohio. **Invited webinar presentation.** Co-hosted by: The Climate Toolkit of Phipps & Organization of Biological Field Stations (OBFS).

Miller, C. N. & Roketenetz, L. 2025. Field stations: a natural environment for research, education and outreach. 1st Annual Climate Toolkit Symposium. **Invited seminar.** Oral Presentation. Breakout session 2: Climate Research.

Miller, C. N. 2025. Ant, urbanization and climate change, oh my! **Invited lecture.** Special topics: 495/595 Sustainability. University of Akron Field Station, Bath, OH. Oral presentation.

Miller, C. N. 2025. Warm spring days are related to shorter durations of reproductive phenophases for understory forest herbs. **Conference seminar.** 110th Annual Meeting of the Ecological Society of America. Baltimore, MD. Oral presentation.

Miller, C. N. 2025. Beneath the forest canopy: My evolution as an ecologist studying spring ephemerals. Ephemerafest. Bath Township, OH. **Invited seminar.** Oral presentation.

Miller, C. N. 2024. Deviation in daily temperature from historic norms shortens duration of spring ephemeral phenophases. East Tennessee State University Biological Sciences Seminar Series. Johnson City, TN. **Invited seminar.** Oral presentation.

Miller, C. N. 2023. Woodboring beetle responses to Hurricane Michael in variously damaged southeastern United States pine plantations. Entomological Society of America Conference. National Harbor, MD. **Invited seminar.** Oral Presentation. Symposium: Downed logs as a bridge: connecting subdisciplines and geographic regions with saproxylic insects.

Miller, C. N. 2023. From ants and seeds to botanical gardens and climate change: the story of an ecologist's evolution. Kennesaw State University Biological Seminar Series. Kennesaw, GA. [Virtual] **Invited seminar.** Oral presentation.

Miller, C. N. 2023. From ants and seeds to botanical gardens and climate change: the story of an ecologist's evolution. The University of Akron Department of Biology Colloquium. Akron, OH. **Invited seminar.** Oral presentation.

Miller, C. N. 2023. From ants and seeds to botanical gardens and climate change: the story of an ecologist's evolution. The Holden Arboretum Scientist Lecture Series. Kirtland, OH. **Invited seminar.** Oral presentation.

Miller, C. N. 2023. A tale of two *Trillium*: differences in endemism, life history, and mutualism efficacy in sessile and pedicellate species. 84th Annual Meeting of the Association of Southeastern Biologists Conference. Winston-Salem, NC. **Invited seminar.** Oral presentation. Symposium: Revisiting some of the plants that William Bartram wrote about in his 'Travels' to North Carolina, 1775 and 1776.

Miller, C. N. 2023. Integrating phenological traits into species distribution models for key spring ephemeral species. Sustainability Lecture Series, Lake Erie College. **Invited lecture.** Oral Presentation.

Miller, C. N., S. Spinner, B. Barnes, E. McCarty, J. T. Vogt, and K. Gandhi. 2021. Subcortical beetles in wind-disturbed pine stands. North American Forest Insect Work Conference. University of Minnesota. [Virtual] conference. Poster presentation.

Miller, C. N., S. Spinner, B. Barnes, E. McCarty, J. T. Vogt, and K. Gandhi. 2021. Subcortical beetles in wind-disturbed pine stands. Forest Pest Management Lecture Series, PPTH 470. West Virginia University, Davis College of Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Design. Morgantown, WV. [Virtual] **Invited seminar.** Oral presentation.

Miller, C. N., S. Spinner, B. Barnes, E. McCarty, J. T. Vogt, and K. Gandhi. 2021. Subcortical beetles in wind-disturbed pine stands. National Wind Disturbance Conference. University of Georgia, Athens, GA. [Virtual] **Invited seminar.** Oral Presentation.

Miller, C. N., S. R. Whitehead, and C. Kwit. 2020. Effects of seed morphology and elaiosome chemical composition on attractiveness of five *Trillium* species to seed-dispersing ants. Invited seminar. 105th Annual Meeting of the Ecological Society of America. Salt Lake City, UT. [Virtual] **Invited seminar.** Oral presentation.

Miller, C. N., S. R. Whitehead, and C. Kwit. 2019. Composition of elaiosome phytochemical profiles and fatty acid concentrations drive seed disperser preference in myrmecochorous species of *Trillium*. 104th Annual Meeting of the Ecological Society of America. Louisville, KY. Poster presentation.

Miller, C. N., S. R. Whitehead, and C. Kwit. 2019. Elaiosome chemical attributes may explain disperser preference for the seeds of widespread *Trillium* species compared to their co-occurring endemic congeners. 5th Annual Women in STEM Symposium. Knoxville, TN. Poster presentation.

Miller, C. N., and C. Kwit. 2018. Comparisons of seed dispersal effectiveness between sympatric endemic and widespread *Trillium* congeners in the southeastern US. 103rd Annual Meeting of the Ecological Society of America. New Orleans, LA. Oral presentation.

Miller, C. N., and C. Kwit. 2017. Ant-seed dispersal and rarity in southeastern US trilliums. 78th Annual Meeting of the Association of Southeastern Biologists Conference. Montgomery, AL. Oral presentation.

Miller, C. N., and C. Kwit. 2015. Plant advantages in myrmecochory: redirecting directed dispersal. Natural Areas Association Conference. Little Rock, AR. Oral presentation.

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

- 160over90 Earned Media and Message Training “101,”** University of Akron, Akron, OH, U.S. 2025
- ASB SISRIS Symposium,** Winston-Salem, NC, U.S. 2023
- “Supporting Inclusive and Sustainable (collections-based) Research Infrastructure for Systematics.” *Competitive entry program.*
- ESA ComSciCon Workshop,** New Orleans, LA, U.S. 2018
- Generalized Joint Attribute Modeling (GJAM),** Knoxville, TN, U.S. 2017
- MBI-NIMBioS-CAMBAM Summer Graduate Program,** Knoxville, TN, U.S. 2017
- “Connecting Models with Biological Data.” *Competitive entry program.*
- TAG (TN-AL-GA) Plant Conservation Alliance Meeting,** Chattanooga, TN, U.S. 2017
- ASB GEOLocate Software Tutorial (Tulane University),** Concord, NC, U.S. 2016
- Hosted by the SouthEast Regional Network of Expertise and Collections (SERNEC)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Ecological Society of America,** Member 2017 – Present
- Association of Southeastern Biologists,** Member 2017 – 2022
- Botanical Society of America,** Member 2017 – 2018

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- NSF Postdoctoral Research Fellowship in Biology Review Panel,** Member. 2025
- University of Akron Field Station Committee,** Member. 2023—Present

University of Akron Ad Hoc Genetics TT Position Hiring Committee, Member.	2023 – 2024
Graduate Researchers in Evolutionary Biology and Ecology, President	2017 – 2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, UTK, <i>Elected representative.</i> 	
Engaging Knoxville in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Member	2015—2019
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, UTK. 	
Graduate Affairs Committee, Member.	2016 – 2017
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, UTK, <i>Elected representative.</i> 	
Undergraduate Affairs Committee, Member.	2015 – 2016
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, UTK, <i>Elected representative.</i> 	
EEB Seminar Committee, Member.	2014 – 2015
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, UTK, <i>Elected representative.</i> 	

Ad-Hoc Reviewer:

- NSF PRFB Panel (February, 2025)
- NSF RUI Proposal
- *Annals of Botany*
- *American Journal of Undergraduate Research*
- *Biotropica*
- *Botany*
- *Ecology and Evolution*
- *Ecosphere*
- *International Journal of Plant Sciences*
- *Oikos*
- *Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution, and Systematics*

COMMUNITY SERVICE

UA Climate Symposium, Lead Organizer.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6 April, 2024 at UAFS at Bath Nature Preserve, Bath, OH. 5 April, 2025 at UAFS at Bath Nature Preserve, Bath, OH. 	2024, 2025
Holden Forests and Gardens Wildflower Hike, Leader.	2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cleveland Footpath Foundation, Cleveland, OH. 	
Warnell Graduate Student Symposium, Oral Presentation Judge.	2021, 2022

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- D. B. Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources, University of Georgia, Athens.
- Kids U. Vertebrate Zoology, Instructor.** 2019
- Knoxville, TN.
 - Hands-on vertebrate zoology.
- Southern Appalachian Science and Engineering Fair, Judge.** 2019
- University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture, Knoxville, TN.
- Pittman Center Elementary Science Fair, Poster Judge.** 2019
- Pittman Center, TN.
- Kids U. Snakes Alive!, Instructor.** 2018
- Knoxville, TN.
 - Hands-on vertebrate zoology.
 - 4th – 8th graders.
- Natural History and Mathematics, Instructor.** 2018
- Farragut Middle School, Knoxville, TN.
 - 8th graders.