

*Curriculum Vitae*

**Courtney Grace Collins**

University of California Riverside, Botany and Plant Sciences  
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**Education**

2019 expected Ph.D. Candidate Plant Biology, Plant Ecology track. University of California Riverside (4.0 GPA)  
2013 M.S. Conservation Ecology and Sustainable Development. University of Georgia (3.56 GPA)  
2011 B.A. Environmental Science. University of Florida. *Summa cum Laude* (3.97 GPA)

**Research Experience**

Current Graduate research assistant. Diez Lab. University of California Riverside, Botany & Plant Sciences  
2013-2014 Research Associate. Starr Lab. University of Alabama & National Ecological Observatory Network  
2013 Field and research technician. Wurzburger lab. University of Georgia, Odum School of Ecology  
2011- 2013 Graduate research assistant. Wurzburger lab. University of Georgia, Odum School of Ecology  
2011 Field and laboratory assistant. Wurzburger lab. Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute  
2009-2010 Field and laboratory assistant. Seminole County Surface Water Quality & Lake Management  
2008-2009 Research intern. Florida Museum of Natural History, University of Florida

**Publications**

**Collins, C. G.**, Stajich, J. E., Weber, S. E., Pombubpa, N., & Diez, J. M. 2018. Shrub range expansion alters diversity and distribution of soil fungal communities across an alpine elevation gradient. *Molecular Ecology* 27:2461–2476.  
Yang, F., Guo, H., **Collins, C.G.**, Yan, X., Ji, Y., Ling, N., Zhou, X., Hu, S. 2018. Grazing practices affect the soil microbial community composition in a Tibetan alpine meadow. *Land Degradation and Development* 10.1002/ldr.3189.  
**Collins, C. G.**, C. J. Carey, E. L. Aronson, C. W. Kopp, and J. M. Diez. 2016. Direct and indirect effects of native range expansion on soil microbial community structure and function. *Journal of Ecology* 104:1271–1283.  
**Collins, C. G.**, S. J. Wright, and N. Wurzburger. 2016. Root and leaf traits reflect distinct resource acquisition strategies in tropical lianas and trees. *Oecologia* 180:1037–1047.

**Awards and Fellowships**

2018 UC Presidential Dissertation Year Fellowship Award \$24,000  
2018 Dr. Janet M. Boyce Memorial Endowed Fund for Women Majoring in the Sciences \$2,000  
2018 White Mountain Research Station research mini-grant \$1,000  
2017 UCR Botany and Plant Sciences Graduate Student Achievement Award \$2,500  
2017 UCR Graduate Research Mentorship Fellowship \$5,700  
2017 NSF Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant (DDIG) (Award No. (FAIN): 1701979) \$19,871  
2017 White Mountain Research Station research mini-grant \$1,000  
2017 Bristlecone Pine CNPS chapter Mary DeDecker botanical grant \$1,000  
2016 Institute for the Study of Ecological and Evolutionary Climate Impacts research fellowship \$5,400  
2016 White Mountain Research Station research mini-grant \$1,000  
2015 EDGE Institute Mike Devirian Graduate Student Research Award \$850  
2015 Institute for the Study of Ecological and Evolutionary Climate Impacts research fellowship \$5,400  
2015 Bristlecone Pine CNPS chapter Mary DeDecker botanical grant \$1,000

2015 White Mountain Research Station research mini-grant \$1,000  
2014-2016 University of California Riverside Chancellor's Distinguished Fellowship \$18,500  
2012 Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute Short Term Fellowship

### **Presentations**

**Collins, C.G.**, Diez, J.M. Plant demographic responses to alpine shrub expansion: what are the relative effects of competition and plant-soil feedbacks? Ecological Society of America annual meeting. New Orleans, LA. August 6, 2018. Oral Presentation.

**Collins, C.G.**, Diez, J.M. Examining the role of soil microbiomes in mediating plant responses to global change. UCR Microbiome Initiative Inaugural Symposium & Datablitz. Riverside, CA. September 27, 2017. Oral Presentation.

**Collins, C.G.**, Stajich, J.E., Diez, J.M. Biogeographic patterns of alpine soil fungal communities under woody shrub expansion. Ecological Society of America annual meeting. Portland, OR. August 11, 2017. Poster.

**Collins, C.G.** Examining the role of plant-soil interactions in woody shrub expansion in the White Mountains of California. Institute for the Study of Ecological and Evolutionary Climate Impacts Research Symposium. Sedgwick Reserve, UC Santa Barbara. May 5-7, 2017. Oral Presentation

**Collins, C.G.** Carey, C.J., Aronson, E.L., Kopp, C.W., Diez, J.M. Direct and indirect effects of native range expansion on soil microbial community structure and function. Ecological Society of America annual meeting. Fort Lauderdale, FL. August 7-12, 2016. Oral presentation

**Collins, C.G.**, Carey, C.J., Aronson, E.L., Kopp, C.W., Diez, J.M. Soil community and ecosystem impacts of native species range expansions: A structural equation modeling approach. International Soil Modeling Consortium workshop. Austin, TX, March 29-April 1, 2016. Poster

**Collins, C.G.**, Wright, S.J. Wurzburger, N.W., 2014. Functional traits of lianas differ from those of trees in a lowland tropical forest. Ecological Society of America annual meeting. Sacramento, CA, August 10-15, 2014. Poster

**Collins, C.G.**, Wurzburger, N.W., 2013. Comparing the functional traits of lianas and trees in a lowland tropical forest. Association of Tropical Biology and Conservation (ATBC) 50th anniversary meeting. San Jose, Costa Rica, June 23-27, 2013. Oral presentation

**Collins, C.G.**, Wurzburger, N.W., Comparing the functional traits of lianas and trees in a lowland tropical forest, getting to the "root" of the issue. University of Georgia, Odum School of Ecology Graduate Student Symposium. Athens, GA, January 20-21, 2012. Oral presentation

### **Teaching Experience**

Fall 2017 Teaching assistant. Plant Ecology (Upper division-BPSC 146). UC Riverside\*

\*Developed and presented two 90 minute guest lectures: "Soils and plant nutrition" and "Ecosystem processes"

\*Led a laboratory and field experiment on Plant physiology.

Spring 2017 Teaching Biology at the College Level (BIO 301) - teaching pedagogy course

Spring 2017 Teaching assistant. California's Cornucopia (BPSC 21). UC Riverside\*

\*Designed and led content for 10 weeks of discussion (120 students).

Fall 2016 Teaching assistant. Intro to Ecology and Evolution laboratory (BIO 5C). UC Riverside

Winter 2016 Teaching assistant. Intro to Ecology and Evolution laboratory (BIO 5C). UC Riverside

### **Invited lectures and Popular Press**

2018 Invited Seminar. Institute of Ecology (INECOL) "Effects of woody plant range expansion on alpine soil microbial communities." March 20, 2018. Xalapa, Veracruz, Mexico.

2017 UCR Academic Resource Center "Pursuing a graduate degree in the Biological Sciences" workshop invited speaker. March 7, 2017. Riverside, CA.

- 2017 California Native Plant Society, Bristlecone chapter meeting invited speaker. "Examining the role of plant-soil interactions in woody shrub expansion in the White Mountains of California." January 25, 2017. Bishop, CA.
- 2016 US Forest service Pacific SW Region Climate Blast Article "The importance of the below-ground component of sagebrush to the carbon budget."
- 2016 Spring White Mountain Research Center Newsletter feature: "Impacts of shrub expansion on alpine plant mycorrhizal communities in the White Mountains, California."  
[http://www.wmrc.edu/files/wmrc\\_newsletter\\_spring2016.pdf](http://www.wmrc.edu/files/wmrc_newsletter_spring2016.pdf)
- 2015 UCR Freshman Advising Seminar guest lecture "My life as a Plant Ecology graduate student."  
October 28, 2015. Riverside, CA

**Outreach**

- 2018 Ameal Moore Nature Center "Junior Science Day" event coordinator
- 2017 California Native Plant Society Bristlecone chapter botany field trip leader\*  
\*write up featured in Sept 2017 newsletter (<http://bristleconecnps.org/newsletters/archives/cnv385.pdf>)
- 2017 UCR "Earth Day Celebration of Science" Botany and Plant Sciences representative
- 2016 Riverside Metropolitan Museum "Fungal Discovery day" event coordinator
- 2015, 2016 California Invasive Plant council Earth night volunteer
- 2014 California Invasive Plant Council native plant sale volunteer
- 2014 Riverside county Science Fair Expo 4th- 12<sup>th</sup> grade science consultant
- 2013 Druid City Garden Project Volunteer
- 2013 UGA Eco-Reach volunteer

**Leadership positions**

- 2016-2017 UCR Botany and Plant Sciences Graduate Student Association (BGSA) Co-Chair
- 2016-2017 UCR Botany and Plant Sciences Education Advisory Committee student representative

**Journals reviewed for**

*Functional Ecology (1), Fungal Ecology (1), Plant Ecology & Diversity (1), PLOS ONE (2), Diversity and Distributions (1), Frontiers in Microbiology (1), Pedobiologia (1), European Journal of Soil Biology (1), International Journal of Tropical Biology and Conservation (1).*