

Robert W. Thacker

Curriculum Vitae

Professional Preparation

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|---|-----------------------|------------|
| Duke University | Zoology | B.S. 1990 |
| University of Michigan, Ann Arbor | Biology | M.S. 1992 |
| University of Michigan, Ann Arbor | Biology | Ph.D. 1995 |
| University of Guam Marine Laboratory | Marine Ecology | 1995-1996 |
| University of Hawaii Kewalo Marine Laboratory | Molecular Systematics | 1996-1998 |
| University of Guam Marine Laboratory | Marine Ecology | 1998-2000 |

Appointments

- 2006 – present Associate Professor, Department of Biology, University of Alabama at Birmingham.
- 2006 – present Scientist, Center for AIDS Research, University of Alabama at Birmingham.
- 2000 – 2006 Assistant Professor, Department of Biology, University of Alabama at Birmingham.

Selected Publications

- Erwin PM, Thacker RW (2008) Cryptic diversity of the symbiotic cyanobacterium *Synechococcus spongiarum* among sponge hosts. ***Molecular Ecology*** 17: 2937-2947.
- Slattery M, Kamel HN, Ankisetty S, Gochfeld DJ, Hoover CA, Thacker RW (2008) Hybrid vigor in a tropical Pacific soft coral community. ***Ecological Monographs*** 78(3): 423-443.
- Taylor MW, Thacker RW, and Hentschel U (2007) Evolutionary insights from sponges. ***Science*** 316: 1854-1855.
- Erwin PM, Thacker RW (2007) Phylogenetic analyses of marine sponges within the order Verongida: a comparison of morphological and molecular data. ***Invertebrate Biology*** 126(3): 220-234.
- Diaz MC, Thacker RW, Rützler K (2007) *Haliclona* (*Soestella*) *walentinae* (Chalinidae, Haplosclerida) and *Xestospongia bocatorensis* (Petrosiidae, Haplosclerida), two new sponge species from Caribbean Panamá with filamentous cyanobacterial symbionts. In: Custódio, M. R., G. Lôbo-Hajdu, E. Hajdu, and G. Muricy (eds.). ***Porifera Research: Biodiversity, Innovation, and Sustainability***, Série Livros 28. Museu Nacional, Rio de Janeiro. pp. 31-36.
- Erwin PM, Thacker RW (2007) Incidence and identity of photosynthetic symbionts in Caribbean coral reef sponge communities. ***Journal of the Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom*** 87: 1683-1692.
- Sotka EE, Thacker RW (2005) Do some corals like it hot? ***Trends in Ecology and Evolution*** 20(2): 59-62.
- Flatt PM, Gautschi JT, Thacker RW, Musafija-Girt M, Crews P, Gerwick WH (2005) Identification of the cellular site of polychlorinated peptide biosynthesis in the sponge *Dysidea* (*Lamellodysidea*) *herbacea* and symbiotic cyanobacterium *Oscillatoria spongeliae* by CARD-FISH analysis. ***Marine Biology*** 147: 761-774.
- Thacker RW, Starnes S (2003) Host specificity of symbiotic cyanobacteria, *Oscillatoria spongeliae*, in marine sponges, *Dysidea* spp. ***Marine Biology*** 142: 643-648.
- Thacker RW, Becerro MA, Lumbang WA, Paul VJ (1998) Allelopathic interactions between sponges on a tropical reef. ***Ecology*** 79(5): 1740-1750.

Synergistic Activities

Editor, *Invertebrate Biology*, 2008 – present.

Editorial Board, *Integrative and Comparative Biology*, 2009 – present.

Dean's Award for Excellence in Mentorship, 2008. Since 2000, advised 27 undergraduate research students, including 19 women and 10 ethnic minorities.

Primary Member, UAB Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, 2001 - 2007.

Secretary, Division of Invertebrate Zoology, Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology, 2004 - 2007.

Instructor and Organizer, field course on "Taxonomy and Ecology of Caribbean Sponges" held at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute's Bocas Research Station, Bocas del Toro, Panama, August 2005, July 2006, August 2007.

Co-sponsor, Organized Oral Session, *Genetic Explorations of the Seascapes*, Annual Meeting of the Ecology Society of America, Portland, Oregon, 2004.

Collaborators and Other Affiliations

(i) Collaborators over the last 48 months

Becerro MA (CEAB, Blanes, Spain)

Collin R (STRI)

Collins AG (NOAA/Smithsonian Institution)

Crews P (U. California)

Diaz MC (Museo Margarita, Venezuela)

Gerwick WH (Scripps Inst. Oceanography)

Gochfeld DJ (U. Mississippi)

Golubic S (Boston U.)

Hentschel U (U. Würzburg)

Hill A (U. Richmond)

Hill MS (U. Richmond)

Hill RT (U. Maryland)

Hooper J (Queensland Museum, Australia)

Lavrov DV (Iowa State U.)

Lopez JV (Harbor Branch Oceanographic Inst.)

Olson J (U. Alabama)

Paul VJ (Smithsonian Marine Station)

Peterson K (Dartmouth College)

Piel J (U. Bonn)

Pomponi SA (Harbor Branch Oceanographic Inst.)

Rützler K (Smithsonian Institution)

Schlöder C (STRI)

Slattery M (U. Mississippi)

Sotka EE (College of Charleston)

Taylor M (U. Auckland)

Turon X (U. Barcelona, Spain)

Uriz MJ (CEAB, Blanes, Spain)

Wörheide G (U. Göttingen, Germany)

(ii) Graduate and Postdoctoral Advisors

Hazlett BA (University of Michigan at Ann Arbor)

Paul VJ (Smithsonian Marine Station, Fort Pierce, FL)

Hadfield MG (Kewalo Marine Laboratory, University of Hawaii)

(iii) Thesis Advisor

Two M.S. students are currently advised: Steve Kimble and Andrew Mobley. One Ph.D. student is currently advised: Chris Freeman. Two students have been awarded a Ph.D.: Frank Camacho (Assistant Professor, Guam Community College [Pacific Islander]), Patrick Erwin (Postdoctoral Researcher, UNC-Wilmington). Three students have been awarded M.S. degrees: Kevin Bevis (UAB Medical School), Patrick Erwin, and Tessa Magnuson (Highlands High School). A total of 7 graduate students have been advised.