

NATASHA DHAMRAIT

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Population Biology Graduate Group and Center for Population Biology
University of California, Davis

EDUCATION

- PhD** **In progress:** The University of California, Davis September 2022 to Present
Population Biology Graduate Group
Department of Ecology and Evolution
Center for Population Biology
- hBSc** The University of Toronto, Honors BSc with distinction June 2021
Specialist in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
Major in Genome Biology
Minor in Environmental Biology

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- Ross-Ibarra Lab**, University of California, Davis 2022 to Present
First Year PhD Student, Dr. Jeffrey Ross-Ibarra (Evolutionary Genomics and Domestication)
- Characterization of the dynamics, diversity, and divergence of Transposable Elements during the domestication of Maize from Teosinte.
- Wright Lab**, University of Toronto 2020 to 2021
Fourth year research thesis, Dr. Stephen Wright (Evolutionary Genomics)
- A comparative genomic and transcriptomic analysis of the rate and drivers of diploidization in angiosperms
- Weis Lab**, University of Toronto 2018 to 2020
Independent research student, Dr. Arthur Weis (Evolutionary Ecology)
- Third year independent research project: Seed Aging, Resurrection, and the Invisible Fraction Problem; An experimental analysis on the effect of artificial seed aging on plant lifetime fitness across three generations.
 - Second year research project: Heat tolerance mechanisms of *Brassica rapa* using greenhouse and heating chamber experiments – under supervision of master's student, Cameron So
- Moncovlo Lab**, University of Toronto Fall 2019
Collections Assistant, The Koffler Scientific Reserve (Mycology)
- Assisted in the collection, documentation, identification, and dissection of Northern Ontario mushrooms and associated fungivorous insects.
- Marine Biology/Oceanography Field Course**, The University of Toronto Summer 2019
Supervised by Dr. Jim Ballantyne and Matt Cornish (University of Guelph)
The Huntsman Marine Science Centre at St. Andrews, New Brunswick
- Examined the influence of physical environment on species diversity and distribution within the intertidal and marine environments of the Passamaquoddy Bay

- Independent project: The Influence of Biological Interactions and Environmental Conditions on Phytoplankton Population Dynamics in Tidepools of the Bay of Fundy

PROFESSIONAL AND VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

UC Master Gardener, Oct 2021 to Present
Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources, The University of California

- Volunteers through educational programs on at home horticulture, gardening, and environmentally responsible/sustainable practices.
- Currently runs the internal newsletter for Yolo County

Science Communication Intern, Big Biology Podcast July 2021 to August 2022

- Assist in the researching, writing, and editing of the episode content.
- Create visual science communication content to be shared on social media.
- Assist in sound editing and production of bi-weekly episodes.
- Ranked one of the top 100 science podcasts, top 20 life science podcasts.

Senior Peer Leader, New College at the University of Toronto Sept 2019 to May 2021

- Lead the Sprout Peer Mentorship program, including training and supervision of 76 student leaders during the 2020-2021 school year and executing large scale and long-term programs for 1700 New College students.
- Transitioned the New College student life program to a virtual format during the summer of 2020 in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Environmental Educator, May 2018 to August 2018
The Student Conservation Association & the San Francisco Parks Department

- Planned curriculum and led fieldtrips to city parks for school age children.
- Planned habitat restoration and implemented urban agriculture programs and large-scale volunteer projects for mixed aged groups.

OUTREACH AND SCIENCE COMMUNICATION

- Joint creation, design, and assembly of Storer Display Case on Maize domestication and diversity (with Regina Fairbanks)
- Volunteer with Science Says, a graduate student organization, to plan and execute several farmer's market information tables on seed diversity and domestication.
- Planned taxon tables plants and fungi for display during the Population Biology "Tree of Life" exhibit during Picnic Day.

OTHER

- Member and frequent volunteer of the Student Diversity Committee with the Population Biology Grad Group
- Recipient of the University of Toronto Student Leadership award [2021]
- Mentoring second year UC Davis undergraduate student starting in the summer of 2023