

# Beck A. Wehrle

Ph.D Candidate

Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology  
School of Biological Sciences  
321 Steinhaus Hall  
University of California, Irvine  
Irvine, CA 92697-2525, USA

lab: 949.824.5603  
fax: 949.824.2181  
bwehrle@uci.edu

website: [www.beckwehrle.weebly.com](http://www.beckwehrle.weebly.com)

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## Education

- 2018 Ph.D. (expected) Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of California, Irvine  
Advisor: Dr. Donovan P. German
- 2013 MS Biology, California State University, Northridge  
Advisor: Dr. Robert E. Espinoza
- 2008 BS Biological Sciences, University of California, Davis

## Fellowships and Honors

- 2016-17 *Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need Fellowship*, U.S. Department of Education through the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of California, Irvine (\$18979)
- 2016-17 Chateaubriand STEM Fellowship, French Embassy in the United States (€6400)
- 2016 *Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need Fellowship*, U.S. Department of Education through the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of California, Irvine (\$11010)
- 2015 *Grover Stephens Memorial Fellowship*, University of California, Irvine (\$1000)
- 2015 *Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need Fellowship*, U.S. Department of Education through the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of California, Irvine (\$6440)
- 2015 *Travelling Fellowship*, Journal of Experimental Biology: “What does it take to be an herbivorous lizard? Revealing the digestive anatomy and physiology of manipulated populations of *Podarcis sicula*” (£2300)
- 2013–14 *Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need Fellowship*, U.S. Department of Education through the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of California, Irvine (\$24216)
- 2013 *Outstanding Graduate Research Award*, Department of Biology, California State University, Northridge (\$100)
- 2013 *Outstanding Graduate Teaching Award*, Department of Biology, California State University, Northridge (\$100)
- 2012 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Sigma Xi Symposium, California State University, Northridge (\$75)
- 2011 *Short-Term Fellowship*, Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (\$2500)
- 2011 *Teaching Associate Tuition Fee Waiver*, Department of Biology, California State University, Northridge (\$2736)
- 2010–11 *Graduate Fellowship for Outstanding Research Promise in Science and Mathematics*, College of Science and Mathematics, California State University, Northridge (\$5000)
- 2009–11 *Graduate Equity Fellowship*, Graduate Studies, California State University, Northridge (\$4000)

### ***Fellowships and Honors (continued)***

- 2009 *Afriat Sanchez Scholarship*, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, California State University, Northridge (\$500)
- 2008 Delphi Foundation Academic Scholarship (\$500)
- 2004–05 *Dean’s List*, College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, University of California, Davis
- 2004–06 *Biology Undergraduate Scholars Program*, University of California, Davis
- 2004 *Henry A. Jastro Academic Scholarship*, University of California, Davis (\$1000)

### **Research Funding**

- 2015 *Grant-in-Aid of Research*, Sigma Xi: “What does it take to be an herbivorous lizard? Revealing the digestive anatomy and physiology of manipulated populations of *Podarcis sicula*” (\$500)
- 2012 *E. E. Williams Research Grant Award*, The Herpetologists’ League: “Testing the role of sociality in transferring digestive microbes in hatchling Green Iguanas (*Iguana iguana*)” (\$1000)
- 2011 *Gaige Fund Award*, American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists: “Why do lizards lounge? The role of sociality in exchanging microbial communities among hatchling *Iguana iguana*” (\$500)
- 2011 *Grant in Herpetology*, Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles: “Why do lizards lounge? The role of sociality in exchanging microbial communities among hatchling *Iguana iguana*” (\$500)
- 2011 *Grant-in-Aid of Research*, Sigma Xi: “Why do lizards lounge? The role of sociality in exchanging microbial communities among hatchling green iguanas” (\$400)
- 2011 *D. H. Norris Field Trip Minigrant*, Department of Biology, California State University, Northridge (\$250)
- 2010 *Grant-in-Aid of Research*, Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology: “Acquisition of fiber-fermenting microbes in green iguanas (*Iguana iguana*)” (\$1000)
- 2009 *Thesis Support Program*, California State University, Northridge: “Acquisition of fiber-fermenting microbes in green iguanas (*Iguana iguana*)” (\$1000)

### **Professional Experience**

- 2015–16 Teaching Assistant: Applied Human Anatomy Lab, University of California, Irvine
- 2015, 2017 Teaching Assistant: Human Nutrition, University of California, Irvine
- 2012–17 Teaching Assistant: Human Physiology Labs, University of California, Irvine
- 2009–11 Teaching Associate: Human Anatomy Labs, California State University, Northridge
- 2009, 2011 Graduate Assistant: Vertebrate Biology, California State University, Northridge
- 2010 Graduate Assistant: Tropical Ecology (field course in Ecuador), California State University, Northridge
- 2009 Junior Specialist, Gail L. Patricelli Lab, University of California, Davis
- 2008–09 Undergraduate Research Assistant, Gail L. Patricelli Lab, University of California, Davis
- 2006–09 Field Assistant to Christopher A. Searcy, University of California, Davis
- 2005–09 Student Assistant II, H. Bradley Shaffer Lab, University of California, Davis
- 2006–08 Field Assistant to Maureen E. Ryan, University of California, Davis

### Professional Service

- 2017 Diversity committee member, American Society for Ichthyology and Herpetology  
2016 Judge, California State Science Fair  
2014–16 Graduate Recruitment Committee, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of California, Irvine  
2013– Biology teaching outreach, Valencia High School, Placentia, CA  
2011–14 Current Research Section Editor, *Herpetological Review*, Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles  
2012 Judge, West Contra Costa Unified School District Science Fair  
2009–12 Vice President, *Behavior, Ecology, and Evolution Research Club*, California State University, Northridge

Peer Reviewer: *Journal of Tropical Biology*, *The Herpetological Journal*

### Professional Memberships

- American Society for Ichthyology and Herpetology
- Sigma Xi
- Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology

### Professional Presentations (\* = presenter on multi-authored presentations)

#### *Invited Presentations*

- Wehrle, B. A.\*** and D. P. German. 2014. Rapid physiological and performance changes in a newly herbivorous lizard. UC Irvine Associated Graduate Students Symposium. [oral]  
Herrel, A.,\* **B. Wehrle**, Z. Tadić, and D. German. 2013. Rapid adaptive changes in morphology and function in natural populations. Invited presentation at the symposium Evolution: Present and Future. Paris, France.  
**Wehrle, B. A.** 2011. Lizard herbivores, digestive microbes, and social aggregations. Capybara Seminar, Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Barro Colorado Island, Panamá  
**Wehrle, B. A.** 2011. Why do lizards lounge? The role of sociality in exchanging microbial communities among hatchling *Iguana iguana*. Graduate Fellows with Outstanding Research Promise in Science and Mathematics Symposium, College of Science and Mathematics, California State University, Northridge.  
**Wehrle, B. A.** 2010. Iguanas and microbes. Capybara Seminar, Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Barro Colorado Island, Panamá

#### *Contributed Papers*

- Wehrle, B.A.** 2017. Changes in digestive performance and physiology in a newly herbivorous lizard. Southern California Herpetologists' HerpFest, Riverside, CA [oral]  
**Wehrle, B.A.**; Z. Tadić, M. Krajnović, K. Chernoff, A. Herrel, and D.P. German. 2017. Comparative nutrient digestibility between insectivorous and rapid-evolving herbivorous Italian Wall Lizards. Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA [oral]  
**Wehrle, B.A.\***; B.Q. Nguyen-Phuc, R.K. Dang, M. Krajnović, Z. Tadić, A. Herrel, and D.P. German. 2016. Seasonal and sex effects on the digestive physiology of a newly herbivorous lizard. Southern California Academy of Sciences Annual Meeting, University of Southern California [poster]

*Contributed Papers (continued)*

- Wehrle, B.A.\***; B.Q. Nguyen-Phuc, R.K. Dang, M. Krajnović, Z. Tadić, A. Herrel, and D.P. German. 2016. Seasonal and sex effects on the digestive physiology of a newly herbivorous lizard. Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology Annual Meeting, Portland, OR. [poster]
- Wehrle, B. A.\***, M. Krajnović, Z. Tadić, A. Herrel, and D. P. German. 2015. Changes in digestive performance and gut structure and function in a newly herbivorous lizard. Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology Meeting, West Palm Beach, FL. [oral]
- Wehrle, B. A.\***, A. Herrel, Z. Tadic, and D. P. German. 2014. Testing the Adaptive Modulation Hypothesis: Physiological changes in a newly herbivorous lizard. Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology Meeting, Austin, TX. [poster]
- Wehrle, B. A.\*** and R. E. Espinoza. 2013. Lounging lizards and gut bugs: Testing the role of the social aggregations for transferring digestive microbes. Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology Meeting, San Francisco, CA. [poster]
- Wehrle, B. A.\*** and R.E. Espinoza. 2012. Why do lizards lounge? The role of sociality in exchanging microbial communities among hatchling *Iguana iguana*. World Congress of Herpetology 7, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC, Canada. [oral]
- Wehrle, B. A.** 2012. Why do lizards lounge? The role of sociality in exchanging microbial communities among hatchling Green Iguanas. 2012 Sigma Xi Student Research Symposium, California State University, Northridge. [oral]
- Wehrle, B. A.** 2012. Gut bugs and lounging lizards: Comparisons of microbial communities in the hindguts of Green Iguanas. 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Student Research and Creative Works Symposium, California State University, Northridge [oral]
- Wehrle, B. A.\*** and R. E. Espinoza. 2012. Why do lizards lounge? The role of sociality in exchanging microbial communities among hatchling Green Iguanas. Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology Meeting, Charleston, SC. [oral]
- Wehrle, B. A.** 2011. Eat poop and thrive: testing the role of the lizard lounge for transferring digestive microbes. Joint Meeting of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, Minneapolis, MN. [poster]
- Luken, A. N.,\* J. R. Warner, D. M. Weeks, **B. A. Wehrle**, and R. E. Espinoza. 2011. Sprint speed is not altered by diel cycle in a nocturnal gecko: implications for performance studies. Joint Meeting of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, Minneapolis, MN. [poster]
- Wehrle, B. A.** 2011. Why do lizards lounge? The role of sociality in exchanging microbial communities among hatchling *Iguana iguana*. 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Student Research and Creative Works Symposium, California State University, Northridge [oral]
- Wehrle, B. A.** 2010. Acquisition of fiber-fermenting microbes in hatchling green iguanas (*Iguana iguana*). 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Student Research and Creative Works Symposium, California State University, Northridge [oral]

**Manuscripts in Prep**

- Wehrle, B. A.**, M. Kranjović, Z. Tadić, R. K. Dang, B. Q. Nguyen-Phuc, R. Agnihotri, A. Herrel, and D. P. German. *in prep*. What does it take to be an herbivorous lizard? Revealing the digestive anatomy and physiology of manipulated populations of *Podarcis sicula*.
- Wehrle, B. A.** and D. P. German. *in prep*. Review: Digestion in reptiles.
- Wehrle, B. A.**, G. E. Flores, and R. E. Espinoza. *in prep*. Intergenerational lizard lounges do not explain the variation in the microbiome of Green Iguanas.

**Publications**

**Wehrle, B. A.**, and J. A. Guzman. 2012. *Iguana iguana* (Green Iguana). Predation. Herpetological Review 43:134.