

Rebecca L. Atkins

Curriculum Vitae

Odum School of Ecology
University of Georgia

Atkinsr@uga.edu
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Education

PhD Doctorate of Philosophy, *University of Georgia, Athens, GA*
Ecology
Expected graduation date: May 2022

B.S. Bachelor of Science, *University of Florida, Gainesville, FL*
Major: Wildlife Ecology and Conservation
Minor: Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences
2014, *Summa cum laude*

Research Interests

- Marine and coastal community ecology
- Population and community structure as a function of energetic demand
- Intraspecific variation underlying context-dependence in consumer-resource interactions
- Spatial and temporal patterns in resource use and ecosystem functioning driven by species interactions

Professional Experience

2022-2023 **Knauss Marine Policy Fellow**
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
National Ocean Services (NOS) Front Office
Washington, DC
Advisor: Mark Osler

2014-2015 **Lab Technician**
University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia
Advisor: Craig Osenberg

- Data entry and database management

2014 **Intern**
Gulf of Maine Research Institute, Portland, Maine
Advisors: Graham Sherwood and Kathy Mills

- Casco Bay Aquatic Systems Survey (CBASS): long term monitoring of water quality, fish movement, fish energetics, and species abundance

2013 **Independent Research Project**

Swansea University, Wales, UK

Advisor: John Griffin

- Evaluating the physical drivers of macroalgal diversity within and among rock pools along a rocky shore

2012-2013 **Lab Assistant**

University of Florida, Gainesville, FL

Advisor: Shirley Baker

- Studying the effects of temperature and salinity on clam survival

2012 **NSF Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) Student**

University of Florida, Sapelo Island, GA

Advisor: Brian Silliman

- Elucidating the effects of size, density, and metabolic demand on consumer-plant (*Littoraria-Spartina*) interaction strength within southeastern salt marshes

Peer-Reviewed Publications

Atkins, R. L., Hamman, E. A. and Osenberg, C. W. 2021. Spatial variability in a salt marsh consumer. In Preparation.

Atkins, R. L. and Osenberg, C. W. 2021. Causes and consequences of intraspecific variation within salt marsh snail populations across space and time. In Preparation.

Atkins, R. L., Clancy, K. M., Ellis, W. T. and Osenberg, C. W. 2021. Thermal traits vary with mass and across populations of the marsh periwinkle, *Littoraria irrorata*. *Biol. Bull.* In Press.

Atkins, R. L., Griffin, J. N., Angelini, C., O'Connor, M. I. and Silliman, B. R. 2015. Consumer-plant interaction strength: importance of body size, density and metabolic biomass. *Oikos*. 124: 1274-1281.

Davidson, A., Griffin, J. N., Angelini, C., Coleman, F., Atkins, R. L. and Silliman, B. R. 2015. Non-consumptive predator effects intensify grazer-plant interactions by driving vertical habitat shifts. *Mar. Ecol. Prog. Ser.* 537: 49-58.

Selected Science Communication

"In Defense of Natural History Museums." *Athens Science Observer*, February 2021

"The Undead Ghost Forests of Georgia." *Athens Science Observer*, February 2020

"Capturing Creativity." *Athens Science Observer*, December 2019

Atkins, R. 2017. Science and art: A mutualism. *Fisheries*. 42(3): 137-139. DOI: 10.1080/03632415.2017.1284499

Sopinka, N. 2016. In Flux: An interview with Rebecca Atkins. *Fisheries*. 41(12): 799-800.

Published Science Illustration

Majewska, A. A. and Altizer, S. 2018. Planting gardens to support insect pollinators. *Conservation Biology*. 0(0): 1-11.

Haram, L. E., K. A. Kinney, Sotka, E. and Byers, J. E. 2018. Introduced ecosystem engineer differentially influences the foraging behavior and habitat selection of top predators. *Ecology*. 0(0): 1-12.

Osenberg, C. W. No clean coal for stream animals. *Nature Sustainability*. 1:160-161.

Presentations

- 2020 Atkins, R., Osenberg, C.W. Quantifying intraspecific variation in thermal performance traits of the salt marsh gastropod *Littoraria irrorata*. Western Society of Naturalists. **Oral Presentation.**
- 2020 Ellis, W., Atkins, R., Osenberg, C.W. Spatial and temporal trends in the body size of an intertidal snail. Western Society of Naturalists. **Poster Presentation.**
- 2020 Atkins, R., Crespo, C., Evans, M., Yager, P., Yang, C. In support of feminist science: Exploring identity and representation in academia. Women's Studies Virtual Friday Speaker Series Lecture. **Oral Presentation.**
- 2020 Duncan, J., Atkins, R. Osenberg, C. W. *Monitoring Biologically Relevant Temperature Profiles of Three Salt Marsh Invertebrates Using Biomimetic Sensors*. CURO Symposium, Athens, GA. **Poster.**
- 2020 Ellis, W., Atkins, R., Osenberg, C.W. Spatial and temporal trends in the body size of an intertidal snail. CURO Research Symposium, Athens, GA. **Poster.**
- 2020 Ellis, W., Atkins, R., Osenberg, C.W. Spatial and temporal trends in the body size of an intertidal snail. Odum School of Ecology Graduate Student Symposium, Athens, GA. **Poster.**
- 2020 Atkins, R., Osenberg, C.W. Quantifying size-structured predation within PREDEX using tethered marsh snails. Georgia Coastal Ecosystems LTER Annual Meeting. Athens, GA, **Poster.**

- 2020 Atkins, R., Harris, R. D., Osenberg, C.W. GCE in 3D: Microclimate remote sensing through biomimics. Georgia Costal Ecosystems LTER Annual Meeting. Athens, GA, **Poster.**
- 2019 Atkins, R., Osenberg, C.W. A framework for studying within-system consumer-resource interactions. Odum School of Ecology Graduate Student Symposium, Athens, GA. **Oral Presentation.**
- 2019 Atkins, R., Harris, R. D., Osenberg, C. W. GCE in 3D: Microclimate remote sensing through biomimics. Georgia Costal Ecosystems LTER Annual Meeting. Athens, GA, **Poster.**
- 2019 Ellis, W., Atkins, R., Osenberg, C. W. Feeding rate as a function of body size, temperature and site in a species of littorinid snail. Odum School of Ecology Graduate Student Symposium, Athens, GA. **Poster.**
- 2018 Atkins, R., Osenberg, C. W. Consumer effects within and across southeastern US salt marshes. LTER All Scientists' Meeting, Monterey, CA. **Poster.**
- 2018 Atkins, R., Clancy, K., Osenberg, C. W. Quantifying variation in thermal performance curves within a species of salt marsh snail as a function of body size and latitude. Gordon Research Conference: Unifying Ecology Across Scales, Biddeford, ME. **Poster.**
- 2018 Atkins, R., Osenberg, C. W. *Incorporating intraspecific variation and metabolic theory into our understanding of consumer-plant interactions.* Benthic Ecology Conference, Corpus Christi, TX. **Oral presentation.**
- 2018 Clancy, K., Atkins, R., Osenberg, C. W. Physiological responses of the marsh periwinkle (*Littoraria irrorata*) to thermal stress. Benthic Ecology Conference, Corpus Christi, TX. **Poster.**
- 2018 Clancy, K., Atkins, R., Osenberg, C. W. Physiological responses of the marsh periwinkle (*Littoraria irrorata*) to thermal stress. Odum School of Ecology Graduate Student Symposium, Athens, GA. **Poster.**
- 2018 Rasheed, H. K., Atkins, R., Osenberg, C. W. Incorporating individual consumer physiology into our current understanding of *Littoraria-Spartina* interactions within southeastern US salt marshes. Odum School of Ecology Graduate Student Symposium, Athens, GA. **Poster.**
- 2017 Atkins, R., Hamman, E. *Spatial variability in a salt marsh consumer.* Benthic Ecology Conference, Myrtle Beach, SC. **Oral presentation.**
- 2017 Atkins, R., Hamman, E. *Spatial variability in a salt marsh consumer.* Odum School of Ecology Graduate Student Symposium, Athens, GA. **Oral presentation.**

- 2016 Atkins, R., Osenberg, C. W. *Causes and consequences of intraspecific variation within consumer snail populations in Southeastern US salt marshes*. Gordon Research Conference: Unifying Across Scales in Ecology, Biddeford, ME. **Poster.**
- 2016 Atkins, R., Osenberg, C. W. *Causes and consequences of intraspecific variation within salt marsh snail populations across space and time*. Benthic Ecology Conference, Portland, ME. **Oral presentation.**
- 2016 Atkins, R., Osenberg, C. W. *Causes and consequences of intraspecific variation within salt marsh snail populations across space and time*. Odum School of Ecology Graduate Student Symposium, Athens, GA. **Oral presentation.**
- 2015 Atkins, R., Griffin, J. N., Angelini, C., Silliman, B. R. *Incorporating intraspecific variation and metabolic theory into our understanding of consumer-plant interactions*. Aquatic Biodiversity and Ecosystems Conference, Liverpool, UK. **Oral presentation.**
- 2015 Atkins, R., Griffin, J. N., Angelini, C., Silliman, B. R. *Incorporating intraspecific variation and metabolic theory into our understanding of consumer-plant interactions*. Southeastern Ecology and Evolution Conference, Athens, GA. **Oral presentation.**
- 2015 Atkins, R., Griffin, J. N., Angelini, C., Silliman, B. R. *Incorporating intraspecific variation and metabolic theory into our understanding of consumer-plant interactions*. Benthic Ecology Conference, Quebec City, Canada. **Oral presentation.**
- 2014 Atkins, R. *Assessing estuarine communities in Casco Bay*. Staff meeting, Gulf of Maine Research Institute, Portland, ME. **Oral presentation.**
- 2014 Atkins, R., Diehl, T., Griffin, J. N. *Physical factors driving species richness in rock pools*. Undergraduate Research Symposium, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL. **Poster.**
- 2014 Atkins, R., Griffin, J. N., Angelini, C., Silliman, B. R. *Size and density of a dominant consumer drive multiple ecosystem processes in a south-eastern salt marsh*. North Florida Marine Science Symposium, Whitney Lab, St. Augustine, FL. **Oral presentation.**
- 2014 Atkins, R., Griffin, J. N., Angelini, C., Silliman, B. R. *Size and density of a dominant consumer drive multiple ecosystem processes in a south-eastern salt marsh*. Georgia Coastal Ecosystems LTER Annual Meeting. Athens, GA, **Poster.**
- 2013 Atkins, R., Griffin, J. N., Angelini, C., Silliman, B. R. *Size and density of a dominant consumer drive multiple ecosystem processes in a south-eastern salt marsh*.

Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society Annual Conference, Melbourne, FL.
Poster.

2013 Atkins, R., Diehl, T., Griffin, J. N. *Physical factors driving species richness in rock pools.* Sigma Xi Student Research Conference, Research Triangle Park, Durham, NC. **Poster.**

2012 Atkins, R., Griffin, J.N., Angelini, C. and Silliman, B.R. *Impacts of grazer size and density on decomposition and grazing intensity.* Marine Biology Symposium, Whitney Lab, St. Augustine, FL. **Poster.**

Workshops and Conferences

- 2020 ComSciCon-Atlanta Science Communication Workshop, Athens, GA
- 2019 Gender, the Body and Fieldwork Across Disciplines Symposium, Athens, GA
- 2019 Odum School of Ecology Graduate Student Symposium, Athens, GA
- 2019 Georgia Coastal Ecosystems LTER Annual Meeting, University of Georgia, Athens, GA
- 2018 Alliance for the Arts in Research Universities (a2ru) National Conference, Athens, GA
- 2018 Long Term Ecological Research (LTER) All Scientists' Meeting, Monterey, CA
- 2018 Gordon Research Conference: Unifying Ecology Across Scales, Biddeford, ME
- 2018 Science Writers Workshop, Athens, GA
- 2018 Benthic Ecology Conference, Corpus Christi, TX
- 2018 Odum School of Ecology Graduate Student Symposium, Athens, GA
- 2017 Benthic Ecology Conference, Myrtle Beach, SC
- 2017 Science Communication Workshop, Myrtle Beach, SC
- 2017 Odum School of Ecology Graduate Student Symposium, Athens, GA
- 2016 Gordon Research Conference: Unifying Ecology Across Scales, Biddeford, ME
- 2016 Benthic Ecology Conference, Bowdoin College, Portland, ME
- 2016 Odum School of Ecology Graduate Student Symposium, Athens, GA
- 2015 Aquatic Biodiversity and Ecosystems Conference, Liverpool, UK
- 2015 American Ecological Society Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD
- 2015 Southeastern Ecology and Evolution Conference, University of Georgia, Athens, GA
- 2015 Benthic Ecology Conference, Université Laval, Quebec City, Canada
- 2015 Georgia Coastal Ecosystems LTER Annual Meeting, University of Georgia, Athens, GA
- 2014 Data Management Plan Workshop, University of Georgia, Athens, GA
- 2014 Undergraduate Research Symposium, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL
- 2014 North Florida Marine Science Symposium, Whitney Lab, St. Augustine, FL
- 2014 Georgia Coastal Ecosystems LTER Annual Meeting, University of Georgia, Athens, GA
- 2013 Sigma Xi Student Research Conference, Research Triangle Park, Durham, NC
- 2013 Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Conference, Oklahoma City, OK

- 2013 Florida chapter of The Wildlife Society Annual Conference, Melbourne, FL
- 2013 Marine Resource and Population Dynamics Workshop, National Marine Fishery Service's RTR Program, Long Key, FL
- 2012 Marine Biology Symposium. Whitney Lab, St. Augustine, FL

Teaching Experience

- 2020-2021 General Ecology Laboratory (ECOL 3500L) Teaching Assistant
- 2020-2021 Topics in Modern Ecology (ECOL 8000) Module organizer and co-instructor
- 2020 Cross-disciplinary Ecology (ECOL 8030) Organizer and co-instructor
- 2018 Marine Ecology (ENVS 385), field trip co-instructor, Emory University
- 2018 Summer A Marine Biology (ZOO 4403C), guest lecturer, University of Florida
- 2016-2018 Maymester Field Program in Ecological Problem Solving (ECOL 3300), guest lecturer, University of Georgia
- 2014 Introduction to Fishery Science (FAS 4305 C), undergraduate lab assistant, University of Florida

Mentoring Experience

- 2020 **Center for Undergraduate Research Opportunities Summer Fellowship Student:** Jennifer Duncan (UGA)
- 2020 **Center for Undergraduate Research Opportunities Research Spring Assistantship Students:** Jennifer Duncan (UGA), William Ellis (UGA)
- 2019 **Center for Undergraduate Research Opportunities Research Summer Assistantship Student:** Jenny Sycamore (UGA)
- 2019 **Young Dawgs High School Summer Intern:** Gracen Dutton
- 2018 **Young Dawgs High School Intern:** William Ellis (UGA)
- 2017 **Senior Thesis:** Kathleen Clancy (UGA)
- 2017 **Center for Undergraduate Research Opportunities Spring Assistantship Student:** Hend Rasheed (UGA)
- 2016 **Atlanta Girls School Intern:** Sam Shaffer (Atlanta Girls School)
- 2015-2016 **Young Dawgs High School Intern:** Rebecca Templeton
Field Assistants: Jenny Sycamore (UGA), Jenny Duncan (UGA), Megan Kelley (UGA), Catherine Miller (UGA), Leeann Frank (University of West Georgia), Courtney Gilbert (University of West Georgia), Neeti Pathak (Georgia Tech), Kelly Mayes (UGA)
Lab Assistants: William Ellis (UGA), Jenny Duncan (UGA), Kelly Mayes (UGA)

Outreach and Service

- 2020 **Graduate Program Committee Student Representative,** Odum School of Ecology, Athens, GA
- 2020 Pollinator Series co-lecturer, Malcom Bridge Middle School, Bogart, GA
- 2020 **Prospective Student Committee Member,** Odum School of Ecology Graduate Student Symposium, Athens, GA

2019 **Session Organizer**, Gender, the Body and Fieldwork Across Disciplines Symposium, Athens, GA

2017-2018 **Outreach Volunteer**, STEMzone, Athens, GA

2018 **Judging Committee Member**, Odum School of Ecology Graduate Student Symposium, Athens, GA

2017 **Program Committee Member**, Odum School of Ecology Graduate Student Symposium, Athens, GA

2017 **Graduate Student Representative**, Odum School of Ecology 5010 Planning Committee, Athens, GA

2017 **Event Organizer**, Plastic: Land to Sea Connections Workshop, Athens, GA

2017 **Mentor**, Georgia Coastal Ecosystems LTER Schoolyard Program, Sapelo Island, GA

2016 **Orientation Coordinator**, Odum School of Ecology Graduate Student Organization, Athens, GA

2016 **Department Representative**, Graduate Student Association, Athens, GA

2015 **Volunteer**, 21st Century Program instructor at Coile Middle School, Athens, GA

2015-2016 **Officer**, University of Georgia Women in Science (WiSci) organization, Athens, GA

2012-2014 **Intern**, Tailgator Green Team Coordinator, University of Florida Office of Sustainability, Gainesville, FL

2012-2013 **Officer**, University of Florida Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society (TWS), Gainesville, FL

2014 **Volunteer**, USDA Forestry Service Kids in the Woods Program, Westwood Middle School, Gainesville, FL

2014 **Volunteer**, camera monitoring, graduate student project, Seminole State Forest, Florida

2013 **Volunteer**, Monarch butterfly tagging project, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, St. Marks Wildlife Refuge, FL

2012 **Volunteer**, small mammal trapping, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Gainesville, FL

2012 **Volunteer**, fox squirrel trapping, graduate student project, Gainesville, FL

2012 **Volunteer**, glass eel monitoring program, Guana River Dam, St. Augustine, FL

2011 **Volunteer**, manatee capture and health assessment, United States Geological Survey, Crystal River, FL

2011 **Volunteer**, Lube bat festival, Lube Bat Conservancy, Gainesville, FL

Grants and Scholarships

2016, 2017 M. K. Pentecost Ecology Fund

2016 Odum School of Ecology Small Grant

2015 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program Award

2015 University of Georgia Presidential Graduate Fellows Program

2015 British Phycological Society Student Travel Bursary

2015 Challenger Society for Marine Science Travel Award

2013-2014 Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Teddy Roosevelt Award

2013 University of Florida Wentworth Travel Scholarship

2013 Sigma Xi Grants-in-Aid of Research

2013 University of Florida University Scholars Program
2011-2012 Department of Wildlife Ecology's Jennings Scholarship
2013 Monica C. Stokely Memorial Scholarship
2011-2013 University of Florida Doris and Earl and Vernal Lowe Scholarship
2010-2014 Bright Futures Scholarship

Honors

2017 Benthic Ecology Conference, Best Student Presentation
2016 Odum School Graduate Student Symposium, Best Student Presentation (3rd Place)
2015 Aquatic Biodiversity and Ecosystems Conference, Best Student Presentation
2015 Aquatic Biodiversity and Ecosystems Conference, Best Student Poster (3rd Place)
2015 Benthic Ecology Conference, Best Student Presentation
2014 North Florida Marine Science Symposium, Best Undergraduate Oral Presentation
2011-2014 University of Florida College of Agricultural and Life Science Honors Program
2012-2013 University of Florida Anderson Scholar
2010-2014 University of Florida Honors Program

Professional Memberships and Affiliations

Current Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation (CERF)
Current Southeastern Estuarine Research Society (affiliate society of CERF)
Current Sigma Xi
Current Ecological Society of America (ESA)
2015-2018 Challenger Society for Marine Science
2015-2018 British Ecological Society
2014 British Phycological Society

Skills and Specializations

- Wilderness first aid (May 2018)
- First aid (June 2014- June 2016; March 2018- March 2020)
- U.S. Coastguard fishing vessel safety (June 2014)
- Scuba: NAUI open water certified (April 2012)
- Aquatic field skills: electrofishing, gill netting, seining, water quality.
- Other field skills: small mammal trapping, plant and animal identification.
- Data analysis (univariate and multivariate)
- Software: ArcGIS, R, SAS, PC-ORD, Microsoft Office