

# Matthew Pollard

Department of Biological Sciences, University of Memphis, Memphis, TN 38152

Tel: (901) 216-8184, Email: mdpollard@memphis.edu

## EDUCATION:

- 2019 – present **University of Memphis, TN, United States of America**  
*PhD Biology (Advisor: EE Puckett)*
- 2017 – 2018 **Cardiff University / Prifysgol Caerdydd, United Kingdom**  
*MRes Biosciences (Supervisor: F Hailer)*
- 2013 – 2016 **Cardiff University / Prifysgol Caerdydd, United Kingdom**  
*BSc (Hons) Zoology – First-class*

## THESIS:

- 2018 **Factors impacting *in silico* identification of the bear Y-chromosome**  
*MRes Thesis, Cardiff University, United Kingdom*

## MANUSCRIPTS:

- Pollard, MD** and EE Puckett. (*in revision*) Evolution of degrees of carnivory and dietary specialization across Mammalia and their effects on speciation
- Pollard, MD**, WK Meyer, EE Puckett. (*in prep*) Convergent molecular constraint in mammalian carnivores: Selection on liver and kidney functions during the evolution of more carnivorous diets

## PUBLICATIONS:

- Puckett, EE, IS Davis, D Harper, K Wakamatsu, G Battu, D Beyer, C Carpenter, A Crupi, M Davidson, N Forman, N Fowler, D Garshelis, N Gould, K Gunther, M Haroldson, S Ito, C Lackey, R Leahy, C Lee-Roney, T Lewis, K McGowan, C Olfenbittel, M Orlando, A Platt, **MD Pollard**, M Ramaker, H Reich, S Sell, F van Manen, C Whitman, R Williamson, F Winslow, C Kaelin, M Marks, G Barsh. **2023**. Genetic architecture and evolution of color variation in North American black and brown bears. *Current Biology* 33: 86-97

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

- 2019 – 2023 Graduate Teaching Assistant, BIOL 3073: Genetics Lab, University of Memphis
- 2020 Grader, BIOL 3072: Genetics, University of Memphis
- 2019 Grader, BIOL 1020: Biology of Organisms (Online), University of Memphis

## PRESENTATIONS:

- 2022 **POSTER: Evolution Conference 2022**  
*Cleveland, OH, United States of America*  
Title: The role of carnivory in shaping carnivoran genome evolution
- 2021 **Virtual Evolution Conference 2021**  
Title: Evolution of degrees of carnivory and dietary specialization across Mammalia and their effect on diversification at different taxonomic levels
- 2019 **POSTER: Evolution Conference 2019**  
*Providence, RI, United States of America*  
Title: Carnivory within Carnivora: A proposal to identify diet-specific signatures of selection using comparative genomics

2018 **POSTER: Genetics Society Meeting: Genotype to Phenotype to Fitness**  
*Exeter University, United Kingdom*  
Title: Factors impacting in silico identification of the bear Y-chromosome  
Awarded first place for best Early Career Researcher poster

**GRANTS AND FUNDING:**

2020 **CBio Seed Grant**  
*University of Memphis Center for Biodiversity Research*  
Amount: 3,000.00 USD  
Returned to funding body due to changes caused by COVID-19 pandemic

**SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS:**

2022 **Ho Fook Hing Scholarship in Biology/Chemistry**  
*University of Memphis College of Arts and Sciences*  
Amount: 5,000.00 USD

2019 **MRes Prize**  
*Cardiff University*  
Amount: 100.00 GBP  
Awarded for best performance on the MRes Biosciences program

2017 **Master's Excellence Scholarship**  
*Cardiff University*  
Amount: 3,000.00 GBP  
Awarded based on academic excellence

2014 **James Brough Prize**  
*Cardiff University*  
Amount: 100.00 GBP  
Awarded to the best Year One student in the Biological Sciences

**SERVICE:**

2021 – 2022 **BioGSA President**  
*University of Memphis Department of Biological Sciences*

2020 – 2021 **BioGSA Graduate Student Representative**  
*University of Memphis Department of Biological Sciences*

**OUTREACH:**

2021 **Demonstrator, MoSH STEAMFest**  
*Memphis Museum of Science and History*

2019 **Volunteer, National Lab Day 2019**  
*University of Memphis*

2015 **Volunteer, Linking Natural Science Collections in Wales Program**  
*National Museum Wales / Amgueddfa Cymru*

2014 – 2015 **Science Tutor, Classroom Experience Project**  
*Cardiff University*

**PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES:**

2021 – 2023 Society of Systematic Biologists (SSB)

2019 – 2023 Society for the Study of Evolution (SSE)