

Mitchell N. Wacksman

SIUC Fisheries
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Education:

High School:

Essexville Garber High School

G.P.A. 3.48 / 4.0

Honors: Cum Laude
National Honor Society Member
Technology Award in Mechanical Drafting
Health Award for Health Education
Two year "Ironman" on football team, perfect attendance

College:

Hope College, Holland, MI

B.S. in Biology

G.P.A. 3.3 / 4.0

Honors: Cum Laude

GRE Scores:

Verbal 530 / 800

Analytical 680 / 800

Quantative 680 / 800

Science Courses Taken:

Biology 150 – Biological Unity & Diversity

Biology 240 – Cells & Genetics

Biology 260 – Organismal Biology

Biology 280 – Ecology & Evolutionary Biology

Biology 315 – Advanced Topics in Ecology

Biology 421 – Evolutionary Biology

Biology 422 – Invertebrate Zoology

Biology 432 – Vertebrate Zoology

Biology 490 – Independent Research in Biology

Biology 495 – Internship
Chemistry 111 – General Chemistry I
Chemistry 113 – General Chemistry Lab I
Chemistry 121 – General Chemistry II
Chemistry 114 – General Chemistry Lab II
Chemistry 221 – Organic Chemistry I
Chemistry 255 – Organic Chemistry Lab I
Chemistry 231 – Organic Chemistry II
Chemistry 256 – Organic Chemistry Lab II
Chemistry 311 – Biochemistry I
Physics 121 – General Physics I
Physics 141 – Physics Lab I
Math 125 – Calculus
Math 210 – Introductory Statistics
GES 210 – Earth & Environmental Systems I

Graduate School:

Southern Illinois University Carbondale
Fisheries and Illinois Aquaculture Center
Carbondale, Illinois
Intended Master's Degree in Aquatic Ecotoxicology
Advisor: Dr. Mike Lydy

Courses Taken:

Zoology 582 – Analytical Methods in Toxicology
Zoology 585Z-001 – Biostatistics I
Zoology 586 – Fisheries Seminar

Courses to be taken spring 2004:

Zoology 411 – Risk Assessment
Zoology 582 – Biostatistics II
Zoology 586 – Fisheries Seminar

Teaching Experience:

¼ Time Teacher's Assistant Zoology 15 Sections 18 & 22

Experience:

Ocean Odyssey Aquarium Shop, Essexville, MI (1996-1997)
*Sales and maintenance of fresh and salt-water aquariums

Wolohan Lumber, Essexville, MI (1997-1998)
*Lumber yard personnel and sales

R & R Engineering, Bay City, MI (1997-1999)
*Detail Engineer, AutoCAD design

Kinney Dairy Warehouse, Bay City, MI (1999-2000)
*Freezer Manager

Environmental Resource Management. Holland, MI (2002-2003)
*Aquatic Toxicology Laboratory Technician

Undergraduate Research:

Hope College Summer Research Program Funded by USDA Competitive Grant to Dr. Tom Bultman, Holland, MI (June 2002 – August 2002)
*Independent Research Study of Local Watershed
* Research Continued During Fall Term

My Research aims to describe the invertebrate life in different areas of the Lake Macatawa watershed. This will be accomplished in open river areas, small agricultural drains, and in a wetland area. Invertebrate life will be sampled using Dendy samplers, a dip net, an Eckman grab, and a plankton tow. Water quality of the watershed will also be assessed measuring pH, dissolved oxygen, conductivity, temperature and phosphate levels at each of eight sampling sites. I will provide background information for an ongoing clean-up project in the watershed area, as well as assess overall health of the watershed. Eutrophication and increasing phosphate levels due to agricultural runoff threaten the area. My work hopes to help in the restoration of this important watershed.

Presentations:

Hope College Summer Research Symposium, August 1 & 2, 2002
“Invertebrate Diversity of The Macatawa Watershed”

Hope College Research Symposium, October 9, 2002
“Invertebrate Diversity of The Macatawa Watershed”

PEW Midstates Science and Mathematics Consortium, October 25-27, 2002
“Invertebrate Diversity of The Macatawa Watershed”

Graduate Research:

Impact of atrazine on chlorpyrifos and diazinon toxicity to *Pimephales promelas*, *Xenopus laevis* and *Rana pipiens*.

Objectives: The main objective of this study is to examine the impacts of atrazine and organophosphate mixtures in vertebrate species. This research will focus in the fathead minnow (*Pimephales promelas*), the leopard frog (*Rana pipiens*) and the African clawed frog (*Xenopus laevis*); testing three life stages of each organism. The research project can be broken down into three main objectives:

1. Does the presence of atrazine affect the toxicity of two organophosphate insecticides (chlorpyrifos & diazinon) on vertebrate species (*Pimephales promelas*, *Rana pipiens* & *Xenopus laevis*)?
2. Are different life stages of organisms affected differently by the presence of atrazine?
3. Does the presence of atrazine in combination with an organophosphate cause a significant change in acetylcholinesterase activity in vertebrates?

Involvement:

Big Brother Mentoring Program With an Area Elementary School
Social Activity Committee Member, “Assistant Technical Chairman”
Member of Varsity Football Team
Member of Lacrosse Club, Received Coaches Award
SIUC Chapter American Fisheries Society

References:

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