

David Weisenbeck
David.weisenbeck@uky.edu

EDUCATION

University of Kentucky , Lexington, KY	August 2022–present
PhD in Biology	
James Madison University , Harrisonburg, VA	August 2017–May 2021
Biology Bachelor of Science, Ecology and Environmental Biology concentration	
Minors: Honors Interdisciplinary Studies, Geology, & Geographical Science	
Honors: <i>Summa Cum Laude</i> ; Distinction in Biology; Honors Scholar	

GRANTS, SCHOLARSHIPS, AND CONTRACTS

• Society of Systematic Biologists Graduate Student Research Award	\$3,000	2024
• University of Kentucky Ribble Pilot Grant (awarded twice)	\$2,000	2023,2024
• University of Kentucky Kuehne Fund	\$1,000	2023
• American Museum of Natural History Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Grant	\$1,000	2023
• The Conservation Fund contract for species survey in Sussex, VA	\$15,000	2021
• Barry Goldwater Scholarship	\$15,000	2019
• Virginia Herpetological Society Grant in Herpetology	\$500	2019
• Jerry and Nancy Bolton and Family Scholarship Endowment for Biology (awarded twice)	\$3,000	2018,2019
• Back Bay Restoration Foundation Bob Aaron Memorial Scholarship	\$1,000	2017
• Virginia Dare Soil and Water Conservation District Cynthia Pridmore Scholarship	\$1,000	2017
• Hampton Roads Community Foundation Roland W. Proescher Scholarship	\$12,000	2017
• Hampton Roads Community Foundation Adrian Ryan Kirk Memorial Scholarship	\$890	2017

PUBLICATIONS

- Weisenbeck, D.R.**, Martin, M.D., Hall, B.J., Jackson, C.C., & B.L. Stuart. 2025. Molecular and Acoustical Verification of Hybrids of Cope's Gray Treefrogs (*Dryophytes chrysoscelis*) and Pine Woods Treefrogs (*Dryophytes femoralis*) in Virginia and North Carolina. *Southeastern Naturalist* 24(1): 83–96.
<https://doi.org/10.1656/058.024.0107>
- Donohue, M.E., Absangba, A.E., Noromalala, E., Randrianasolo, Randrianirina, L.G.R., Rakotovao, R., **Weisenbeck, D.R.**, Stumpf, R.M., Wright, P.C., & A. Lamb. 2015. Why didn't the sifaka cross the road? Divergence of *Propithecus edwardsi* gut microbiomes across geographic barriers in Ranomafana National Park, Madagascar. *American Journal of Primatology* 87(2): e23732.
<https://doi.org/10.1002/ajp.23732>
- Weisenbeck, D.R.** (2023). *Lithobates palustris* (Pickerel Frog): Interspecific necrophilic amplexus. *Herpetological Review* 54(2): 271.
- Batist, C.H., Bliss, M., **Weisenbeck, D.R.**, Rafamantanantsoa, R., Razafindrakoto, G., Ranaivosolo, J.W., Jean Baptiste, V., Wright, P.C., & M.E. Donohue. 2023. Updated lemur species ranges in Madagascar's Corridor Forestier d'Ambositra Vondrozo (COFAV). *Folia Primatologica* 94(4–6): 207–223.
<https://doi.org/10.1163/14219980-bja10012>
- Weisenbeck, D.R.**, Nelson, E.M., & D.S. McLeod. (2022). Herpetological Inventory at Sweet's Farm in Highland County, Virginia. *Banisteria* 56: 118–136.
- Graziano, M., **D.R. Weisenbeck**, & D.S. McLeod. (2019). A herpetological survey of the Edith J. Carrier Arboretum at James Madison University (Harrisonburg, Virginia). *Catesbeiana* 39(2): 97–102.
- Weisenbeck, D.R.**, Graziano, M.J., & A.M. Pahides. (2019). County Record Confirmation: *Lithobates palustris* (Pickerel Frog) Virginia: Greene Co. *Catesbeiana* 39(1): 28.
- Weisenbeck, D.R.** & M.J. Graziano. (2019). Geographic Distribution: *Terrapene carolina carolina* (Eastern Box Turtle) USA: Virginia: Greene Co. *Herpetological Review* 50(2): 327.

- Weisenbeck, D.R.** & M.J. Graziano. (2019). Geographic Distribution: *Hyla versicolor* (Gray Treefrog) USA: Virginia: Madison Co. *Herpetological Review* 50(2): 522.
- Graziano, M.J. & **D.R. Weisenbeck**. (2019). Geographic Distribution: *Anaxyrus americanus* (American Toad) USA: Virginia: Greene Co. *Herpetological Review* 50(2): 521.
- Graziano, M.J. & **D.R. Weisenbeck**. (2019). Geographic Distribution: *Hyla versicolor* (Gray Treefrog) USA: Virginia: Greene Co. *Herpetological Review* 50(2): 522.
- Weisenbeck, D.R.** (2018). *Lithobates palustris*: Cloacal prolapse. *Catesbeiana* 38(1): 59.

PREPRINTS AND IN REVIEW

- Donohue, M.E., Stephens, J., **Weisenbeck, D.R.**, Martin, K.R., Frederick, J.H., Black, A.N., Ranaivosolo, W.J., Raheimanjato, J.P., Fahmy, M., Bliss, M. & P.C. Wright. In Review. Genomic and microbiome data support a hypothesis of hybrid speciation in endangered brown lemurs. *Current Biology*. Preprint available: <https://doi.org/10.64898/2025.12.10.693535>
- Weisenbeck, D.R.** In Review. Unusually high herpetofaunal species richness at a future wildlife management area in Sussex, VA. *Banisteria*.
- Foley, M.E., Law, A., Hawk, G., Drayer, A., **Weisenbeck, D.R.**, Moe, L., Price, S., & D.W. Weisrock. In Review. Location plays a stronger role than evolutionary history in mussel gut microbiome composition. *Freshwater Biology*.

PRESENTATIONS

- Weisenbeck, D.** Survey of the Amphibians and Reptiles at a TCF Property. Virginia Land Trusts and Greenways Conference. 2022 April 27–29; Richmond, VA. **Contributed poster.**
- Weisenbeck, D.** Reptile or Amphibian: The Convolutioned History of Lepospondyl Taxonomy. James Madison University Geology Symposium. 2021 April 23; James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA. **Contributed oral paper.**
- Weisenbeck, D.** Population study of native and invasive turtles in Harrisonburg, Virginia. James Madison University BioSymposium. 2021 April 15; James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA. **Contributed oral paper.**
- Weisenbeck, D.** Mark-recapture of native and invasive turtles in Harrisonburg, VA. Virginia Herpetological Society Fall Meeting. 2019 October 19; Henrico, Virginia. **Contributed oral paper.**
- Weisenbeck, D.** The Amphibians and Reptiles of Sweet's Farm. Valley Conservation Council Annual Meeting. 2019 October 13; Verona, Virginia. **Invited speaker.**
- Weisenbeck, D.** Herping away from home: Studying amphibians and reptiles in Southeast Asia. Ocean Lakes High School Evening Lecture Series. 2018 December 11; Ocean Lakes High School, Virginia Beach, VA. **Invited speaker.**
- Weisenbeck, D.**, Yaqub, D., Sprys, A., Younossi, E., Hodge, M., Wease, J., McLeod, D. Mark-recapture of turtles on James Madison University's East Campus. James Madison University BioSymposium. 2018 April 13; James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA. **Contributed poster.**
- Cheung, J., Esna, C., Fields, M., Gage, E., Head, A., Middleton, M., Rubin, M., **Weisenbeck, D.** On the hunt: An exploration of phages infecting *Streptomyces griseus*. Phall Phage Phaire. 2017 Nov 17; Virginia Union University, Richmond, VA. **Contributed poster.**

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| Teaching Assistant: Introduction to Evolution (BIO 303, UK, 3 semesters) | 2022–2025 |
| Teaching Assistant: Introduction to Biological Research (BIO 198, UK, 3 semesters) | 2023–2025 |

STUDENTS MENTORED

- | | |
|--|----------------------|
| Kiara Baker | January 2025–present |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undergraduate student project exploring mitochondrial genome rearrangements in leopard frogs | |

SERVICE AND OUTREACH

- Skype a Scientist** November 2024–Present
- JMU Beta Beta Beta, Biology Honor Society** January 2018–May 2021
- Service chair from August 2020–May 2021; organizing community service events for the organization.
- JMU Center for STEM Education and Outreach** December 2019–March 2020
- Participating in education programs designed to teach elementary-aged students about biology.
- JMU Herpetological Outreach Program** December 2017–April 2019
- Participating in outreach events teaching a variety of age groups about amphibians and reptiles using live animals.
 - Managing care of live educational animals.

OTHER EMPLOYMENT

- Virginia Beach City Public Schools** November 2021–May 2022
- Substitute teaching in middle and high school classes in science, social studies, and English.
- James Madison University Chemistry Department** September 2018–December 2018
- Tutoring general chemistry students.

SELECTED PHOTOGRAPHY CREDITS

- **First known photograph of living** beetle species *Cenchromorphus chloropholoides*. 2025.
- **Cover photograph** for Southeastern Naturalist 24(1). 2025.
<https://www.eaglehill.us/SENAonline/TOCs/sena-v24-n1-2025.shtml>
- **Article photograph** in Neupane, N., Goswami, R., Harrison, K., Oberhauser, K., Ries, L. and C. McCormick. 2024. Artificial intelligence correctly classifies developmental stages of monarch caterpillars enabling better conservation through the use of community science photographs. Scientific Reports, 14(1): 27039. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-024-78509-w>
- **Cover photograph** for Urban Naturalist 73. 2024. <https://www.eaglehill.us/URNAonline2/access-pages/073-Turso-accesspage.shtml>
- **Article photograph** in Harvey, T. & E.H. Bender. 2021. Spiritual lessons of the wilderness. Messenger Magazine. <https://www.brethren.org/messenger/climate-change/spiritual-lessons-of-the-wilderness/>