

Sarah Knutie, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor at University of Connecticut

Storrs, CT, US

Professor Knutie focuses on host-parasite systems

Biography

Sarah Knutie is an assistant professor whose research spans both fundamental and applied ideas in ecology, particularly with host-parasite systems. She received her Ph.D. from the University of Utah with Dale Clayton in 2014 where she studied invasive disease ecology. Her dissertation explored the effect of an introduced parasitic nest fly *Philornis downsi* on birds in the Galapagos, how birds defend themselves against *P. downsi* (Knutie et al. Ecology), and why *P. downsi* is widespread in the Galapagos (Knutie et al. Ecosphere). She also established a method ('self-fumigation') for controlling the fly in bird nests (Knutie et al. Current Biology). During her post-doc in Jason Rohr's lab at the University of South Florida, she explored the role of host-associated microbiota in disease ecology (Knutie et al. Nature Communications). She is particularly interested in whether the early-life microbiota of hosts mediate the effect of environmental factors (e.g. pollution, climate change, resource availability) on disease risk. She also has a passion for teaching, especially when she can incorporate a hands-on field component, and mentors an amazing group of female scientists.

Areas of Expertise

Invasive Species, Parasite manipulation of host behavior, Parasite Interactions

Education

University of Utah

Ph.D.

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