

2017 Department of Biology Awards

JAMES A. AND PATRICIA A. MACMAHON ENDOWED
ECOLOGY GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH AWARD

Alexandre Rego, Master's Candidate



I am a first-year Masters student studying evolutionary biology. My specific interests within the field are uncovering the processes that shape adaptation to novel environments. This is done through the use of experimental evolution methods and genomic sequencing to produce high-resolution and comprehensive inferences of evolution.

I have had the opportunity to present my research both locally at USU research symposia and national conferences. This last summer I presented preliminary research on parsing the effects of standing genetic variation and de novo mutations at the annual Evolution conference. Most

recently I presented work on the genomic basis of rapid adaptation to low-quality hosts at a branch conference of the Entomological Society of America.

Beyond fretting about research, I am interested in developing my skills as an educator. As a TA, I have helped develop labs which incorporate novel research so that students gain a more authentic laboratory experience. The intersection between science and education should gain a special consideration, both to provide the next generation of scientists the knowledge to succeed, as well as informing the general public about developments in research and how it affects the world. To that end, my future goals gravitate towards a position in academia, where such an intersection is encouraged and supported.

In my spare time, I enjoy petting dogs, eating, and sleeping. Coincidentally, those are the three best things in life, in that order.