

Sean Chien, M.S.

College Station, Texas
schien@tamu.edu

EDUCATION

Ph.D.	Texas A&M University—College Station, Texas Biology <i>PI</i> : Heath Blackmon	2022 – Present
M.S.	Eastern Illinois University—Charleston, Illinois Biological Sciences <i>Chair</i> : Zhiwei Liu	2020 – 2022
B.S.	Tunghai University—Taichung, Taiwan Animal Science	2013 – 2017

PUBLICATIONS

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1. **Sean Chien**, Jen-Pan Huang, Heath Blackmon, Chromosome-level reference genome of an endemic, endangered long-armed scarab (*Cheirotonus formosanus*): discovery of a putative Y-linked scaffold and demographic history. *Ecology and Evolution*. Accepted
 2. **Sean Chien**, Heath Blackmon, Chromosomal Rearrangements: Tempo and Mode of Karyotype Evolution in Scarabaeoidea, *Journal of Evolutionary Biology*, 2026;, voag025, <https://doi.org/10.1093/jeb/voag025>
 3. Heath Blackmon, Michelle Jonika, **Sean Chien**, Max Chin, Nathan, Anya, Chromartie, & Meghann McConnell. (2026). coleoguy/evobir: v3.0 (Version v3). Zenodo. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.19137903>
 4. Terrence Sylvester, Zachary Hoover, Carl E Hjelman, Michelle M Jonika, Leslie T Blackmon, James M Alfieri, J Spencer Johnston, **Sean Chien**, Tahmineh Esfandani, Heath Blackmon, A reference quality genome assembly for the jewel scarab *Chrysina gloriosa*, *G3 Genes / Genomes / Genetics*, Volume 14, Issue 6, June 2024, jkae084, <https://doi.org/10.1093/g3journal/jkae084>

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

ROOT & SHOOT Travel Award	\$3,000	2026
Research and Presentation Travel Award	\$1,000	2025
Mark and Nancy Deyrup Visiting Scholars	\$4,400	2024
SSB Graduate Student Research Award	\$3,000	2023

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant	2022 – Present
Department of Biology, Texas A&M University PI: Heath Blackmon	
- Acquiring grants to secure project funding and ensure financial support for initiatives	
- Designed and executed fieldwork experiments, including sample collection for <i>de novo</i> genome assemblies and population genomic projects	
- Performed DNA and RNA extractions, including high molecular weight DNA extractions	
- Developed and implemented custom scripts in R, Python, or Bash to extract meaningful biological insights from the database	
Research Assistant	2020 – 2022
Department of Biological Sciences, Eastern Illinois University Advisor: Zhiwei Liu	
- Designed and conducted a study to understand the relationship between beetle diversity and forest management in central Illinois	

- Developed skills related to experimental design, data collecting, and data analysis
- Collected and analyzed field data
- Submitted a manuscript about the study findings

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant	<i>Texas A&M University</i>	
Medical Narratives	Biology Undergraduate Program	Spring, 2025 – Present
Critical Writing in Biology	Biology Undergraduate Program	Fall, 2024
Experimental Design	Biology Graduate Program	Fall, 2023 – Spring, 2024
Introductory Biology I&II	Lower Division Instruction Program	Fall, 2022 – Spring, 2024
Teaching Assistant	<i>Eastern Illinois University</i>	
Ecology and Evolution	Department of Biological Sciences	Spring, 2022
General Biology	Department of Biological Sciences	Fall, 2021
Systematics	Department of Biological Sciences	Spring, 2021

HORNORS

BioGSA Engagement Scholarship	2025
Biology Art Contest – 3 rd Place	2025
SRW Oral Presentation – 1 st Place	2025
NATEA-Dallas Scholarship Honorable Mentions	2023
Distinguished International Student Award, Eastern Illinois University	2022
Distinguished International Student Award, Eastern Illinois University	2021
International Student Scholarship, Eastern Illinois University	2020

PRESENTATION

Ecological Integration Symposium (Talk)	2026
Evolution(Talk)	2025
Southeast Texas Evolutionary Genetics and Genomics (Talk)	2025
Entomological Interdisciplinary Research Symposium (Talk)	2025
Ecological Integration Symposium (Talk)	2025
Texas Genetics Society (Talk)	2025
Student Research Week (Talk) – 1 st Place	2025
Student/Postdoc Research Conference (Poster)	2025
Ecological Integration Symposium (Poster)	2024
Student Research Week (Poster)	2024
Student/Postdoc Research Conference (Poster)	2024
Texas Genetics Society (Poster)	2024
Evolution (Poster)	2023

SERVICE & OUTREACH

Ecological Intergration Symposium - Judge	2026
Faculty search graduate student committee	2025
Open Source for Open Science workshop	2025
Ecological Intergration Symposium	2024
Darwin day	2024
R workshop (Texas Genetics Society)	2024
R workshop (TAMU Biology Department)	2024

PEER REVIEW

<i>Genome</i> * 2	2024	<i>Genome Biology and Evolution</i>	2024
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PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION

Sean Chien, M.S.

American Society of Naturalists	2024	Society of Systematic Biologists	2024
Society of Study of Evolution	2023	Texas Genetics Society	2023

REFERENCES

Dr. Zhiwei Liu

Professor of Biology
Department of Biological Sciences, Eastern Illinois University
Email: zliu@eiu.edu

Dr. Heath Blackmon

Assistant Professor of Biology
Associate Department Head of Graduate Studies
Graduate Advisor
Department of Biology, Texas A&M University
Email: blackmon@tamu.edu

Dr. Jen-Pan Huang

Associate Research Fellow
Academia Sinica Biodiversity Research Center (Taiwan) & The Field Museum of Natural History
Email: jphuang@as.edu.tw

Dr. James Alfieri

Assistant Professor of Instruction
Department of Biology, University of Iowa
Email: james-alfieri@uiowa.edu