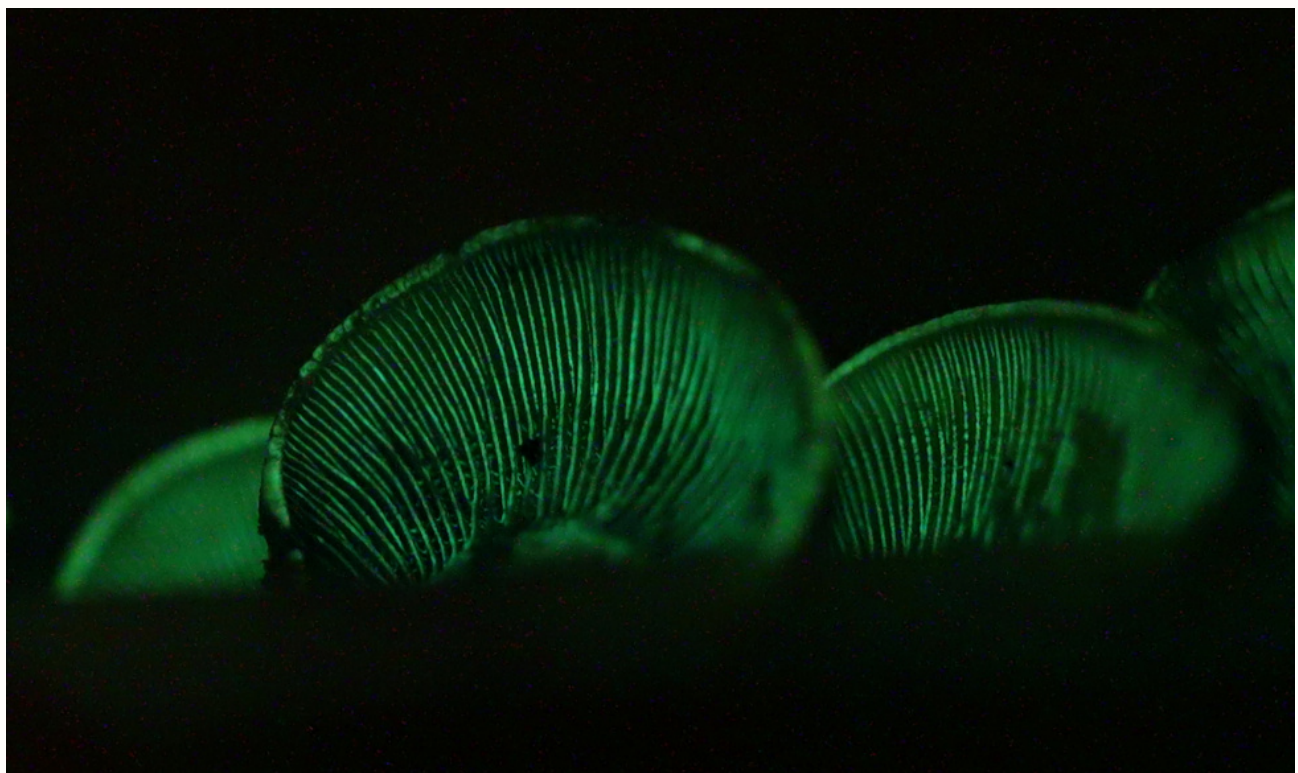




MSA STUDENT AND POSTDOC SECTION

Mycological Society of America



Panellus stipticus bioluminescence, Photo: Thomas Roehl

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General Announcements

MSA Student Spotlight Nominations

We are accepting nominations for our

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Get featured in our monthly newsletter - it is free and open to everyone!

Be the Student
Spotlight



Be the Postdoc
Spotlight



Nominate a Friend



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SPS 2023-24 Executive Board

Chair

Abbey
Neat



Vice Chair

Xiommy
Pinchi-Dávila

Secretary

Justina
Martelli



Treasurer

Rebecca
Mader

Merchandise

Lluvia
Vargas



Social Media

Diana Vargas-
Hernández

Webmaster

Thomas
Roehl



Postdoc Rep

Terry
Torres-Cruz



Student Spotlight

Sofie Irons



Where did you grow up?

I grew up in Limerick Maine

Where are you currently doing your research?

Clark University

Who is your advisor?

David Hibbett and Javier Tabima

What are your career goals/plans for after you're done with your current position?

I'm not sure yet! I'm passionate about research, agriculture, and environmental education, so we will see where I end up!

What is something inspiring or useful that you learned from your experiences in mycology?

Resilience (whether its biological, societal, emotional) can come in many different forms



Which awards would you like to brag about?

I received the LEEP fellowship in spring of 2022

What is your favorite fungus and why?

Ophiocordyceps sinensis! I think the history is cool, and I like the idea of a parasitic fungus having potential health benefits!

What is your favorite fact/thing about fungi?

I love how diverse their morphology and reproductive methods can be



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Student Spotlight

Sofie Irons

Tell us about your project!

My research project focuses on the species *Lentinus tigrinus*, a white-rot wood decaying fungus. Interestingly, this species occurs along riverbeds and on partially submerged logs within the rivers themselves. This fungus has two different phenotypic forms, one secotioid (veiled gilled) and one agaricoid (gilled). The secotioid form has only been described in North America, where the two forms can be found within the same population. I am currently looking to see if there is structuring within the population that can be found along the Ipswich River in MA, as well as using the ratio of heterozygous to homozygous individuals to determine if assortative mating is occurring within the same population.

What do you like to do in your free time? What are your hobbies?

I enjoy hiking, photography, and cooking! I also love my part time job coaching kids at a local rock climbing gym.

Any great stories from field work?

Most of my fieldwork happens while canoeing on the Ipswich river, leading to lots of little adventures! My favorite routine happens consistently in early summer, when the Canada geese and swans begin to bring their babies out and about into the world! Whenever they swim past us (and after we fully appreciate their adorableness, of course) there is always a battle among lab members as some of us furiously row towards the babies to get a better view, and the rest of us furiously row away, trying to steer clear of angry parents!



05



MSA 2023 Meeting Highlights

- **SPS Board meeting** that included a discussion of ideas for 2023 - 2024 SPS events.
- **3 Mycologists & Musings**, featuring conversations with Dr. Catalina Salgado-Salazar, Dr. Javier Tabima, and Dr. Nancy Johnson.
- **Myco-themed trivia night** at Grand Canyon Brewery with 80+ attendees.
- **SPS swag table** with stickers, field shirts, postcards (and more!) all designed by MSA students.
- **Student presentation awardees:**
 - Meredith Blackwell
Presentation Prize - **Victoria Luizzi**
 - John Taylor Presentation Prize - **Jake Nash**
 - Graduate Poster Award - **Xueyan Xu** and **David Hayes**
 - Undergraduate Presentation - **Kirby Morris** and **Evan Warburton**

Mycologists & Musings



SPS Swag



Trivia Night



Resources

Mycological Society of America

[MSA membership portal and renewal](#)

[MSA awards](#)

Student and Postdoc Section

[Mycology colloquium signup form](#)

[Student spotlight signup form](#)

[Mycology group spotlight signup form](#)

[Musings and Mycologists \(MnMs\) nomination form](#)

[Photos of the month submission form](#)

[MSA SPS swag](#)

[Check out our new merch here!](#)



MSA SPS Social Media



SEPTEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

