

Visit Narrative

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I applied to the EDEN Undergraduate Internship program in hopes of gaining support for my projects using the emerging model system *Ceratodon purpureus* as well as joining a network of students and researchers with like-minded goals and interests. Staying in my home lab allowed me to continue ideas and projects developed earlier in the year and also helped me make the most of my time this summer. Though I may have missed out on collaborating with another lab by staying at my home institution, the University of Florida, I did get the opportunity to work with an EDEN Research Exchange awardee, Pierre Perroud, on a project during my internship time this summer. I learned many interesting techniques from him and hope to collaborate again with him in the future.

My time during this internship was spent researching two major questions in the *Ceratodon* system: how is genotypic and phenotypic variation associated, and why this moss has a female biased sex ratio. For the first project, plants were grown on pseudo soil in a growth chamber and checked for emergence of sex buds three times a week. This data was collected over the internship period and the data will be analyzed in the immediate future. For the sex ratio bias project, several field-collected populations were evaluated for capsule spore number, percent germination, and progeny sex ratio using the attached protocol. The data was analyzed and I had the opportunity to present this research at the American Bryological and Lichenological Society's meeting in Roan Mountain, Tennessee.

I would consider my time spent researching this summer very successful. I gained a lot of valuable experience, had the opportunity to collaborate with new researchers, and most importantly, got to see a project through from beginning to end. Sharing the techniques that we developed with new students in the lab has been another great experience. Overall I highly recommend this program to other undergraduates interested in research.