



**Curriculum Vita
December 2025**

Instructor: Dr. Kaitlin Allen-Tapondjou

Academic Department: Biological and Environmental Sciences

University Address: Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences
Science Building
Texas A&M University-Commerce
PO Box 3011
Commerce, TX 75429-3011

Office Phone: N/A

University Email Address: kaitlin.tapondjou@etamu.edu

Faculty Web Page Address: N/A

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
University of Kansas, 2021

M.S., Biology
Villanova University, 2015

B.S., Biology
Truman State University, 2013

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

August 2015 – December 2021, Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of Kansas

- Principles of Molecular and Cellular Biology
- Principles of Organismal Biology.
- Principles of Genetics
- Field and Laboratory Methods in Ecology
- Field Herpetology
- Introduction to Systematics

PUBLICATIONS

Allen, K. E., Blackburn, D. C. 2023. Polyploidapalooza: Exploring the diversity and evolution of polyploid plants and animals. QUBES Educational Resources. [doi:10.25334/7PYB-BB45](https://doi.org/10.25334/7PYB-BB45) 2517 views, 1339 downloads.

Allen, K.E., Zoungrana, M., Blackburn, D.C. 2022. Species accounts for 13 species of *Astylosternus* and *Trichobatrachus*. AmphibiaWeb. Link can be found [here](#)

Kameni N., M. M., Yuan, F. L., Gonwouo, L. N., Tapondjou N., W. P., Allen, K. E., Fomena, A., Tsang, T. P. N. 2023. Range contractions and reduced body mass

- predicted for endemic skinks of the Cameroon Volcanic Line with future warming. Diversity and Distributions. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ddi.13743>.
- Tapondjou N., W. P., Allen, K. E., Hime, P. M., Knipp, K. N., Kameni, M. M., Tchassem, A. M., Gonwouo, L. N., Brown, R. M. 2022. Diversification and historical demography of *Rhampholeon spectrum* in West-Central Africa. *PloS one*, 17, e0277107.
- Greenbaum, E., Portik, D.M., Allen, K.E., Vaughan, E.R., Badjedjea, G, Barej, M.F., Behangana, M., Conkey, N., Dumbo, B., Gonwouo, L.N., Hirschfeld, M., Hughes, D.F., Igunzi, F., Kusamba, C., Lukwago, W., Masudi, F.M., Penner, J., Reyes, J.M., Rödel, M.-O., Roelke, C.E., Romero, S., Dehling, J.M. 2022. Systematics of the Central African Spiny Reed Frog *Afraxalus laevis* (Anura: Hyperoliidae), with the description of two new species from the Albertine Rift. *Zootaxa*, 5174, 201–232.
- Kameni N., M. M., Gonwouo, L. N., Tapondjou N., W. P., Tchassem F., A. M., Doherty-Bone, T., Allen, K. E., Fomena, A. 2022. Status and habitat preferences of montane endemic skinks, genera *Lacertaspis*, *Leptosiaphos*, and *Trachylepis*, in the central Cameroon Volcanic Line. *Herpetology Notes*, 15, 271–281.
- Allen, K.E., Tapondjou N., W.P., Freeman, B., Cooper, J.C., Brown, R.M., Peterson, A.T. 2021. Modelling potential Pleistocene habitat corridors between Afromontane forest regions. *Biodiversity and Conservation*, 30, 2361–2375.
- Allen, K.E., Greenbaum, E., Hime, P.M., Tapondjou N., W.P., Sterkhova, V.V., Kusamba, C., Rödel, M.-O., Penner, J., Peterson, A.T., Brown, R.M. 2021. Rivers, not refugia, drove diversification in arboreal, sub-Saharan African snakes. *Ecology and Evolution*, 11, 6133–6152.
- Greenbaum, E., Allen, K.E., Vaughan, E.R., Pauwels, O.S.G, Wallach, V. Kusamba, C., Muninga, W.M., Aristote, M.M., Mali, F.M.M, Badjedjea, G., Penner, J., Rödel, M.-O., Rivera, J., Sterkhova, V., Johnson, G., Tapondjou N., W.P., Brown, R.M. 2021. Night stalkers from above: A monograph of *Toxicodryas* tree snakes (Squamata: Colubridae) with descriptions of two new cryptic species from Central Africa. *Zootaxa*, 4965, 001–044.
- Allen, K.E., N. Tapondjou, W.P., Greenbaum, E., Welton, L.J., Bauer, A.M. 2019. High levels of hidden phylogenetic structure within central and west African *Trachylepis* skinks. *Salamandra*, 55, 231–241.
- Allen, K.E., N. Tapondjou, W.P., Welton, L.J., Bauer, A.M. 2017. A new species of *Trachylepis* (Squamata: Scincidae) from Central Africa and a key to the *Trachylepis* of West and Central Africa. *Zootaxa*, 4268, 255–269.
- Allen, K.E., Aviles Rodriguez, K.J., Eifler, D.A., R. Powell. 2014. Social and environmental factors influence microhabitat selection in the brown-speckled sphaero, *Sphaerodactylus notatus* (Squamata: Sphaerodactylidae). *Journal of Herpetology*, 49, 165–169.
- Diamond, K., Trovillion, D., Allen, K.E., Malela, K.M., Noble, D.A., Powell, R., Eifler, D.A., M. E. Gifford. 2014. Individual (co)variation of field behavior and locomotor performance in curly tailed lizards. *Journal of Zoology*, 294, 248–254.
- Allen, K.E., Powell, R. 2014. Thermal biology and microhabitat use in Puerto Rican eyespot geckos (*Sphaerodactylus macrolepis macrolepis*). *Journal of Herpetological Conservation and Biology*, 9, 590–600.

RESEARCH GRANTS AND AWARDS

Selected grants:

- 2019, Testing the Pleistocene refugial hypothesis in highland versus river systems in Central Africa, APS Lewis and Clark Fund for Exploration and Field Research, \$4,800
- 2019, Testing the Pleistocene refugial hypothesis in highland versus river systems in Central Africa, Explorers Club Mamont Grant, \$2,700
- 2017, New approaches to testing a classical theory of rainforest speciation in Central Africa, National Geographic Young Explorer Grant, \$5000