

Dr. Mark Fishbein

Department of Botany

Dr. Mark Fishbein joined the Oklahoma State University faculty in 2009 as an assistant professor of botany and director of the OSU Herbarium. He earned his bachelor's degree in biological sciences from the University of Illinois at Chicago and doctorate in ecology and evolutionary biology from the University of Arizona. He received postdoctoral training at Washington State University and University of Idaho and has held faculty appointments at Mississippi State University and Portland State University. He currently serves as secretary of the American Society of Plant Taxonomists and associate editor of *Systematic Biology*. He has published over 50 peer-reviewed articles and co-edited *Gentry's Río Mayo Plants: The Tropical Deciduous Forest and Environs of Northwest Mexico*.

Research in the Fishbein lab is focused on basic questions about the evolutionary processes generating biological diversity. Fishbein has long been fascinated by the ecological interactions between milkweed plants and the insects that pollinate flowers or consume their tissues. Using genomic data, Fishbein's group reconstructs the evolutionary history of milkweeds as a framework for testing hypotheses about the coevolution of plant defenses, such as toxins, hairs, waxes, and latex, and countermeasures employed by insect herbivores, such as monarch butterflies. Recently, Fishbein has begun to apply genomic data to uncover the genetic basis for the evolution of milkweed defenses.



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