

Vitae

David C. Thompson, Ph.D.

Appointment:

35% Teaching, 65% Research

Education:

B.S. Entomology 1982. Colorado State University

Ph.D. Entomology 1988. Colorado State University

Employment:

Department of Entomology, Plant Pathology, and Weed Science 1987 – present
New Mexico State University

Associate Professor, 1996 – present

Assistant Professor, 1990 – 1996

College Assistant Professor, 1987 – 1990

Department of Entomology 1984 – 1987

Colorado State University

Research Associate, 1984 – 1987

Teaching Experience:

Introduction to Pest Management, EPWS 100: Undergraduate introductory course covering all disciplines (1987-1990, 1992-1999)

Introduction to Pest Management Lab, EPWS 200/100L: Field based laboratory associated with introductory course (1993-2000)

Identification of Economic Insects, EPWS 200: Undergraduate course on basic identification of important insects (1989-1992)

Introduction to Entomology, EPWS 290: General Introduction to Entomology (1987)

EPWS 303, Economic Entomology and Lab, EPWS 303: Introductory Entomology course required of all of our students and a service course for other departments (1993-present)

Humans, Insects, and the Environment, EPWS 325G: Large General Education class taught primarily to non-majors (2000-present)

Ecosystem Earth: The impact of human activities, AGHE 380G: General Education class for non-majors covering current issues and impact of humans on the world environment (1998-2000)

Major Areas of Research:

- Interactions of native rangeland weeds and native insects, specifically studying the potential of the native insects as biological control agents.
- Field release and monitoring of biological control agents for exotic, noxious weeds.
- Host range testing of potential exotic biological control agents under quarantine conditions.
- Basic biological and ecological studies of important pests of New Mexico agriculture.

Specific Projects:

- Native rangeland grasshopper, *Hesperotettix viridis*, as a biological control agent of broom snakeweed. ^{abc}
- Managing native insects to control rangeland weeds by artificially creating refugia. ^{ab}
- Locoweed insects, *Cleonidius trivittatus* and *Walshia miscolorella* attacking purple (*Astragalus*) and white (*Oxytropis*) locoweeds. ^{ab}
- Leafy spurge (*Euphorbia esula*) biological control with *Aphthona* flea beetles. ^e
- Yellow starthistle (*Centaurea solstitialis* L.) biological control with the weevils *Eustenopus villosus* and *Larinus curtus*.
- Release and evaluation of bindweed mites (*Aceria malherbae*) attacking field bindweed. ^{ac}
- Saltcedar (*Tamarix* spp) biological control with leaf beetles (*Diorhabda elongata*) ^{ade}
- Determining the potential for hybridization between different ecotypes of saltcedar leaf beetles (*Diorhabda elongata*) that are being (or are being considered) for release in the United States. ^{ade}
- Importance, interactions, and identification of the red imported fire ant (*Solenopsis invicta*) and native fire ants found in the Southwestern US.

^a Interdisciplinary with EPPWS

^b Interdisciplinary with ANSC

^c Interdisciplinary with AGECON

^d Interdisciplinary with USDA/ARS

^e Interdisciplinary with CES

Professional Society Membership:

Entomological Society of America
SW Branch of the Entomological Society of America
Executive Committee (2004 Sec/Treas, 2005 VP, 2006 Pres)

W-1185 Biological Control of Plant Pests Regional Project
Secretary (2004) **Pres** (2005)

Society for Range Management

Awards:

New Mexico State University
Outstanding Faculty Member – Chicano Programs (1999)
**National Association of Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture
(NACTA) Award of Merit** (1999)
Donald C. Roush Award for Teaching Excellence (2000)

New Mexico State University, College of Agriculture & Home Economics
Distinguished Teaching Award (2003).