

Ms. Susie Fehrmann, a 2010 graduate of the M.A. in Biological & Environmental Sciences, has published her thesis work in the American Journal of Botany (AJB). AJB is a leading international journal for research on plant biology. Susie's thesis advisor (Dr. Richard Halliburton) and research collaborator (Dr. Tom Philbrick) are coauthors on the paper.

Susie's research addressed questions relating to genetic variation in the water plant called 'Thread Foot' or 'Riverweed.' In particular, she investigated how patterns of genetic variation were influenced by past climatic events (glaciation). Her results indicate that populations of Thread Foot that occur in regions that had not been covered by glaciation during the Pleistocene (about 24,000-18,000 years ago) possessed markedly more genetic variation than populations presently occupying regions that had been glaciated (e.g., central and northern New England and adjacent Canada). The results of her study provide insight into the possible effects of current climate change on the geographic distributions and genetic variation in aquatic plants, as well as plants and animals in general.

Fehrmann, F., C. T. Philbrick & R. Halliburton. 2012. Intraspecific variation in *Podostemum ceratophyllum* (Podostemaceae): evidence of refugia and colonization since the last glacial maximum. *American Journal of Botany* 99: 145-151.