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Outstanding Natural History Paper of 2009

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OUTSTANDING NATURAL HISTORY PAPER OF 2008

The *Western North American Naturalist* (WNAN) is pleased to print an announcement of the 2008 award for the outstanding natural history paper of the year. The award was previously publicized only on the WNAN web site (<https://ojs.lib.byu.edu/wnan/index.php/wnan/index>). The winning paper was *Geographic patterns of ground-swelling arthropods across an ecoregional transition in the North American Southwest* by David C. Lightfoot, Sandra L. Brantley, and Craig D. Allen

(WNAN 68:83–102). This annual award celebrates our authors' achievements in creative and meaningful research, insightful interpretation, and articulate writing. Finalists were selected from the 45 full-length papers published in Volume 68, and the WNAN Editorial Board members selected a winner by vote. David C. Lightfoot, as senior author of the top paper, received a cash award of \$300.00.

OUTSTANDING NATURAL HISTORY PAPER OF 2009

The *Western North American Naturalist* (WNAN) is pleased to announce the 2009 award for the outstanding natural history paper of the year. This annual award was instituted to celebrate our authors' achievements in creative and meaningful research, insightful interpretation, and articulate writing. Finalists were selected from the 50 full-length papers published in Volume 69, and the WNAN Editorial Board members selected a winner by vote. The top 4 papers are listed below. Monte P. Sanford, as senior author of the top paper, will receive a cash award of \$300.00.

Selective herbivory by the desert woodrat (Neotoma lepida) on Joshua trees (Yucca brevifolia) by Monte P. Sanford and Nancy Huntly (WNAN 69:165–170).

Grass rhizosheaths: associated bacterial communities and potential for nitrogen fixation by David Bergmann, Mike Zehfus, Linda Zierer, Brian Smith, and Mark Gabel (WNAN 69:105–114).

American pikas inhabit low-elevation sites outside the species' previously described bioclimatic envelope by William G. Simpson (WNAN 69:243–250).

Sperm viability in the reproductive tract of females in a population of Sceloporus mucronatus exhibiting asynchronous reproduction by Angela M. Ortega-León, Maricela Villagrán-Santa Cruz, J. Jaime Zúñiga-Vega, Raúl Cueva-del Castillo, and Fausto R. Méndez-de la Cruz (WNAN 69:96–104).