

Summary: JoVonn Hill, Formicidae (Ants)

Dr. JoVonn Hill, Assistant Research Professor, Department of Entomology & Plant Pathology from Mississippi State University, researched ants and grasshoppers in the Big Thicket.

Survey of Ants (Hymenoptera: Formicidae), grasshoppers, and related families {the suborder Caelifera (Orthoptera: Acrididae, Romaleidae, Tetrigidae, Tridactylidae)} in Big Thicket National Preserve was approved in the ToD Minutes of August 8, 2011 for \$6670. The project was extended to 8/31/2014.

Hill began his work while working on his graduate degree which he achieved. His poster was printed for display at the FRS.

The project was successfully completed and the data recorded by Mona Halvorsen in the Taxa Tally and shared with NPS. 38 species were listed in the December 2013 Taxa Tally.

Submitted: Mary C. Johnston, Nov. 12, 2020

In 2026, ToD Chair Mary C. Johnston and Intern, Natalia Doiron, reviewed records and data. The Taxa Tally ants data had not been updated for many years and did not include addition of the research by Dr. Scott Solomon of Rice University. The Tally was updated in 2026 to list 60 species. The number of specimens viewed/ collected was impossible to count.

In April 2026 Dr. Hill submitted a new proposal not related to ants, “Survey of the Leaf (Chrysomelidae) and Rove (Staphylinidae) Beetles of the Big Thicket Region,” PI: Dr. JoVonn Hill, Co-PI: Dr. Anthony Deczynski, Collaborators: Dr. Patricia Wooden, Dr. Adam Haberski. It was approved and funded for \$11,823.

Submitted: Mary C. Johnston, April 4, 2026