Dr. Cheryle A. O'Donnell worked several years in the electronic manufacturing business and began studies in landscaping and ornamental horticulture while managing her own landscaping business. She received a B.S. (1997) in Agricultural Systems and the environment, her M.S. degree in Plant Protection and Pest Management (2000), and her Ph.D. in Entomology (2007), cumulatively at the University of California, Davis. She is an insect systematist focusing on the evolutionary relationships of Thysanoptera. Her doctoral research focused on molecular analyses to determine phylogenetic relationships of the western flower thrips *Frankliniella occidentalis* Perqande in California and the relationships of virus-vectors within the Terebrantia.

While working in the agricultural industry, Cheryle found a need for insect identification and monitoring tools that was not met by the scientific community. She feels a personal obligation to produce useful and practical identification tools and training to fill this need. As a Post Doctoral Researcher in Michael P. Parrella's lab through 2008, she was responsible for conducting and coordinating the collaborative research between Gerald Moritz's lab in Germany and the Parrella lab at UC Davis to meet the criteria set forth in a USDA-APHIS Plant Biosecurity grant. Her main focus in this project was to develop a thrips identification key in Lucid using morphological and molecular identification methods that assists USDA inspectors, CDFA agents, and UC Cooperative Extension agents in identifying thrips (Published 2009). This is a tool specifically designed to highlight potential invasive species to the US.

Currently, Cheryle is employed as an Entomologist with USDA-APHIS-PPQ as an area identifier at the Nogales, AZ port of entry. Her duties include identification of pests intercepted from Mexico and she provides training for Customs and Border Patrol Agricultural Specialists. In her current position, invasive species are highlighted and risk assessment for pests with the potential threat to the US agriculture and native plants are evaluated frequently at ports of entry. Cheryle focuses her training and her work ethics around securing accurate interceptions, identification and publications for pests intercepted at ports of entry throughout Arizona and New Mexico. In addition, Cheryle serves as the Western Region Thysanoptera specialist for the United States.