

## Section 2: Living Black Entomologists



Jessica L. Ware

*“Evolutionary biology is one of the key disciplines in science that can help us understand our world.”*

### Memoirs

#### Jessica L. Ware

I was born in Montreal, Quebec, with an identical twin. My family moved to Toronto, Ontario, Canada, shortly after we were born, and we lived there until I was 18. In Toronto, the only insects we saw at home were ants and flies! We were lucky that my grandparents had a cottage up north that we visited often throughout the winter and summer months when school breaks permitted. Their cottage sat on Lake Muskoka, a large lake surrounded by birch, poplar, maple, and pine trees. We spent every summer at the cottage, playing outside from sun-up to sunset. Whether canoeing on the lake, picking blackberries in the forest that surrounded their cottage, or playing in my grandmother’s garden, we were surrounded by insects. Large, colorful dragonflies and damselflies landed on the dock while we were swimming, grasshoppers jumped through the bushes as we hiked, and the ever-annoying mosquitoes were a constant presence when we were weeding the vegetable garden.

Around the age of nine, a friend of my parents mentioned that there were jobs for people who loved nature as I did, and that such scientists were called “biologists.” Then and there, I decided to go into biology, although I was not sure what kind of biology I wanted to do. After high school, I enrolled at the University of British Columbia (UBC) and signed up for a marine biology major, which was basically an invertebrate zoology major.