

L A U R A M C I S N E R O S

Department of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology
University of Connecticut
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EDUCATION

University of Connecticut

May 2014

Ph.D., Ecology & Evolutionary Biology

GPA: 3.933

Dissertation research: Effects of human-modified landscapes on metacommunity structure and multiple dimensions of biodiversity

Advisor: Dr. Michael Willig

Michigan State University

May 2006

B.S., Zoology, Concentration in Zoo and Aquarium Science, Honors

GPA: 3.822

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2014–Pres. **Assistant Extension Educator**, Department of Natural Resources & the Environment, University of Connecticut.

2014 **Adjunct Professor**, Department of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, University of Connecticut.

PUBLICATIONS

Pfeifer, M., Lefebvre, V., Gardner, T.A., Arroyo-Rodriguez, V., Baeten, L., Banks-Leite, C., Barlow, J., Betts, M.G., Brunet, J., Cerezo, A., **Cisneros, L.M.**, Collard, S., D'Cruze, N., da Silva Motta, C., Duguay, S., Eggermont, H., Eigenbrod, F., Hadley, A.S., Hanson, T.R., Hawes, J.E., Heartsill Scalley, T., Klingbeil, B.T., Kolb, A., Kormann, U., Kumar, S., Lachat, T., Lakeman Fraser, P., Lantschner, V., Laurance, W.F., Leal, I.R., Lens, L., Marsh, C.J., Medina-Rangel, G.F., Melles, S., Mezger, D., Oldekop, J.A., Overal, W.L., Owen, C., Peres, C.A., Phalan, B., Pidgeon, A.M., Pilia, O., Possingham, H.P., Possingham, M.L., Raheem, D.C., Ribeiro, D.B., Ribeiro Neto, J.D., Robinson, W.D., Robinson, R., Rytwinski, T., Scherber, C., Slade, E.M., Somarriba, E., Stouffer, P.C., Struebig, M.J., Tylianakis, J.M., Tscharntke, T., Tyre, A.J., Urbina Cardona, J.N., Vasconcelos, H.L., Wearn, O., Wells, K., Willig, M.R., Wood, E., Young, R.P., Bradley, A.V. & Ewers, R.M. (2014) BIOFRAG – a new database for analyzing BIOdiversity responses to forest FRAGmentation. **Ecology and Evolution**, *In Press*, doi: 10.1002/ece3.1036.

Cisneros, L.M., Burgio, K.R., Dreiss, L.M., Klingbeil, B.T., Patterson, B.D., Presley, S.J. & Willig, M.R. (2014) Multiple dimensions of bat biodiversity along an extensive tropical elevational gradient. **Journal of Animal Ecology**, *In Press*, doi: 10.1111/1365-2656.12201.

*Durant, K.A., Hall, R.W., **Cisneros, L.M.**, Hyland, R.M. & Willig, M.R. (2013) Reproductive phenologies of phyllostomid bats in Costa Rica. **Journal of Mammalogy**, 94, 1438–1448.

Presley, S.J., **Cisneros, L.M.**, Patterson, B.D. & Willig, M.R. (2012) Vertebrate metacommunity structure along an extensive elevational gradient in the tropics: a comparison of bats, rodents, and birds. **Global Ecology and Biogeography**, 21, 968–976.

Willig, M.R., Presley, S.J., Bloch, C.P., Castro-Arellano, I., **Cisneros, L.M.**, Higgins, C.L. & Klingbeil, B.T. (2011) Tropical metacommunities along elevational gradients: effects of forest type and other environmental factors. **Oikos**, 120, 1497–1508.

* indicates student research conducted under my mentorship.

MANUSCRIPTS IN REVIEW OR IN PREP

Cisneros, L.M., Fagan, M.E. & Willig, M.R. Effects of human-modified landscapes on taxonomic, functional, and phylogenetic dimensions of bat biodiversity. **Diversity and Distributions**, *In Review*.

Dreiss, L.M., Burgio, K.R., **Cisneros, L.M.**, Klingbeil, B.T., Patterson, B.D., Presley, S.J. & Willig, M.R. (2014) Taxonomic, functional, and phylogenetic dimensions of rodent biodiversity along an extensive tropical elevational gradient. **Ecography**, *In Review*.

Cisneros, L.M., Fagan, M.E. & Willig, M.R. Season-specific and guild-specific effects of anthropogenic landscape modification on metacommunity structure of tropical bats. **Journal of Animal Ecology**, *In Review*.

Cisneros, L.M., Fagan, M.E. & Willig, M.R. Partitioning environmental and spatial effects on taxonomic, functional, and phylogenetic structure of bat assemblages in a human-modified landscape. *In Prep*.

PRESENTATIONS

Invited

Cisneros, L.M. & Willig, M.R. (2014) Efecto de los paisajes modificados por humanos en las dimensiones taxonómicas, funcionales y filogenéticas de biodiversidad en murciélagos. 1er Congreso Latinoamericano de Murciélagos, Quito, Ecuador. (to be presented in Aug 2014)

Contributed

Willig, M.R., Burgio, K.R., **Cisneros, L.M.**, Dreiss, L.M., Patterson, B.D., Presley, S.J. & Klingbeil, B.T. (2014) Gradients of phylogenetic relatedness and size similarity: bats and rodents in a hotspot of tropical biodiversity (Manu, Peru). 94th American Society of Mammalogists Meeting, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. (to be presented in June 2014)

Cisneros, L.M. & Willig, M.R. (2013) Partitioning the effects of spatial and environmental variation on phylogenetic structure of a bat metacommunity in a human-modified landscape. 98th Ecological Society of America Meeting, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Cisneros, L.M. & Willig, M.R. (2013) Identifying landscape characteristics that promote taxonomic, functional and phylogenetic dimensions of bat biodiversity. 93rd American Society of Mammalogists Meeting, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

*Hall, R.W., Durant, K.A., **Cisneros, L.M.**, Hyland, R.M. & Willig, M.R. (2013) Reproductive phenologies of phyllostomid bats from Costa Rica. 93rd American Society of Mammalogists Meeting, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Willig, M.R., Burgio, K.R., **Cisneros, L.M.**, Dreiss, L.M., Klingbeil, B.T., Patterson, B.D. & Presley, S.J. (2013) Comparative biodiversity of bats and rodents along an extensive tropical elevational gradient: taxonomic, functional, and phylogenetic dimensions. 93rd American Society of Mammalogists Meeting, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

*Hall, R.W., Durant, K.A., **Cisneros, L.M.**, Hyland, R.M. & Willig, M.R. (2013) Reproductive phenologies of phyllostomid bats from Costa Rica. 16th Frontiers in Undergraduate Research Poster Exhibition, Storrs, Connecticut.

Cisneros, L.M. & Willig, M.R. (2012) Effects of landscape structure on multiple dimensions of bat biodiversity. 97th Ecological Society of America Meeting, Portland, Oregon.

Klingbeil, B.T., Burgio, K.R., **Cisneros, L.M.**, Dresis, L.M., Patterson, B.D., Presley, S.J. & Willig, M.R. (2012) Variation in multiple dimensions of biodiversity along a tropical elevation gradient: inter-taxon comparison. 97th Ecological Society of America Meeting, Portland, Oregon.

Cisneros, L.M. & Willig, M.R. (2011) Neotropical bat metacommunities in a human-modified landscape. 91st American Society of Mammalogists Meeting, Portland, Oregon.

Klingbeil, B.T., Bloch, C.P., Castro-Arellano, I., **Cisneros, L.M.**, Presley, S.J. & Willig, M.R. (2009) Metacommunity structure of gastropods along an elevational gradient in the Luquillo Mountains, Puerto Rico. Luquillo Experimental Forest LTER Site Meeting, Rio Grande, Puerto Rico.

Willig, M.R., Klingbeil, B.T., Bloch, C.P., Castro-Arellano, I., **Cisneros, L.M.** & Presley, S.J. (2009) Metacommunity structure of gastropods along an elevational gradient in the Luquillo Mountains, Puerto Rico. LTER All Scientists Meeting, Estes Park, Colorado.

* indicates student research conducted under my mentorship.

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

2013	The Honoraria and Travel Grant, American Society of Mammalogists. \$300
2012	Travel Award for 97th Ecological Society of America Meeting, Dimensions of Biodiversity Distributed Graduate Seminar, National Science Foundation. \$1,220
2010	Multidisciplinary Environmental Research Award for Graduate Students, Center for Environmental Sciences and Engineering, University of Connecticut. \$8,000
2010	Student Research Scholarship, Bat Conservation International. \$3,500
2010	Grants-in-Aid of Research, American Society of Mammalogists. \$1,290
2010	Clark, Manter, Trainor, Wetzel and Whitworth Endowment Fund, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of Connecticut. \$750
2009	Multidisciplinary Environmental Research Award for Graduate Students, Center for Environmental Sciences and Engineering, University of Connecticut. \$5,000
2009	Research Fellowship, Organization for Tropical Studies. \$2,500
2009	Grants-in-Aid of Research, American Society of Mammalogists. \$1,000
2009	Center for Conservation and Biodiversity Award, Center for Conservation and Biodiversity, University of Connecticut. \$600
2007–2014	Multicultural Fellowship, Graduate School, University of Connecticut. \$84,000
2002–2003	Beaumont Tower Grant Education Scholarship, Michigan State University. \$1,000

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2014	Field Mammalogy (EEB 3898), University of Connecticut, <i>Instructor</i> (one intensive summer session).
2007–2014	Foundations of Biology (BIOL 1102), University of Connecticut, <i>Laboratory Teaching Assistant</i> (six semesters).
2013	Conservation Biology (EEB 5310), University of Connecticut, <i>Lecture Assistant</i> (one semester).

- 2011 **Mammalogy** (EEB 3254/5254), University of Connecticut, *Laboratory Teaching Assistant* (one semester; nominated for EEB Excellence in Student Teaching Award).
- 2003 **Science Camp**, Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum, *Teaching Assistant* (one summer; classes taught to elementary and middle school students).
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STUDENT MENTORSHIP

- 2012–2013 **Independent Study: Kathryne Durant, Ryan Hall, Rachael Hyland**, University of Connecticut.
Reproductive phenologies of phyllostomid bats from Costa Rica. Resulted in a \$1,000 award from the Office of Undergraduate Research at the University of Connecticut, two presentations and a publication in *Journal of Mammalogy*.
- 2008 **REU Program: Lauren Jones, Nicole Rivera**, Luquillo Experimental Forest, El Yunque National Forest, Puerto Rico.
Metacommunity ecology of litter spiders along an elevational gradient in the Luquillo Mountains of Puerto Rico.
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RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2011–2012 **Dimensions of Biodiversity Distributed Graduate Seminar**, University of Connecticut.
Collaborated with faculty and graduate students from the University of Connecticut and the Field Museum to explore environmental drivers of biodiversity along an elevational gradient. Collaborative effort resulted in three presentations and two publications (e.g. Cisneros *et al.* 2014, *Journal of Animal Ecology*).
- 2008 **Field Research Leader**, Luquillo Experimental Forest, El Yunque National Forest, Puerto Rico.
Led field component of a study on metacommunity structure of invertebrates along an elevational gradient. Contributions included management of all aspects of data collection and mentorship of two undergraduate students.
- 2007 **Field Research Assistant**, Tiputini Biodiversity Station, Yasuní Biosphere Reserve, Ecuador.
Assisted Dr. Anthony Di Fiore with collection of behavioral data of two species of monkey (*Ateles belzebuth* and *Lagothrix lagotricha*), and of phenological data of food-plant species.
- 2006 **Field Research Assistant**, Cocha Cashu Biological Station, Manú National Park, Peru.
Assisted Dr. K. Nicole Gibson with collection of ecological and behavioral data that influence male reproductive strategies in spider monkeys (*Ateles belzebuth*).
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OUTREACH AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

- 2012 **Elementary Outreach Instructor**, Franklin Elementary, North Franklin, Connecticut.
Designed/taught a lesson on bat echolocation. Part of a collaborative effort by University of Connecticut graduate students to introduce adaptations of species to their environment.

- 2010–2011 **Museum Volunteer**, University of Connecticut Biological Collections, Storrs, Connecticut.
Prepared specimens in the mammal collection.
- 2008–2011 **Guest Lecturer**, University of Connecticut Biological Collections, Storrs, Connecticut.
Presented research to a biology course (Topics in Modern Biology [BIOL 1109]; four semesters) and to the University of Connecticut Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society (one semester).
- 2010 **Environmental Education Teaching Assistant**, Nogal Nature and Community Project, Sarapiquí, Heredia, Costa Rica.
Assisted with teaching environmental classes at elementary schools in banana plantation communities. Designed/taught a lesson on the importance of bats. Classes taught in Spanish.
- 2005 **Zoo Intern**, San Antonio Zoo, San Antonio, Texas.
Performed basic duties of an animal keeper within the small mammal department, which included food preparation, cleaning and maintenance of enclosures, and providing enrichment to animals.
- 2004 **Infirmary and Caretaker Intern**, Howell Nature Center, Howell, Michigan.
Provided care for injured and orphaned Michigan wildlife as well as for un-releasable Michigan mammals and sandhill cranes. Developed skills in raptor and mammal handling.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS AND SERVICES

Reviewer

Acta Chiropterologica, Acta Oecologica, Ecological Research, Therya

Societies

Ecological Society of America, American Society of Mammalogists, Bat Conservation International

ADDITIONAL SKILLS

Statistical Programs: R, Matlab, Minitab, SPSS and EstimateS.

Spatial Technologies: arcGIS, ERDAS, Garmin GPS, and Telemetry.

Language: Fluent in written and conversational Spanish.