

VANESSA BOUKILI

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EDUCATION

- 2007- present **University of Connecticut, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology**
Ph.D. candidate, advised by Dr. Robin Chazdon
- 1998 - 2003 **University of California at Berkeley**
Bachelor of Arts in Integrative Biology, Minor in Spanish
Emphases in Ecology and Animal Behavior
- 2000 - 2001 **Universidad de Alcalá; Alcalá de Henares, Spain**
UC Berkeley EAP year abroad program (completed 9 courses taught in Spanish)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2007 - 2009 **Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of Connecticut**
Introductory Biology for non-majors (Spring 2009, Fall 2007)
Methods of Ecology (Fall 2008)
Conservation Biology (Spring 2008)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 10/03- 06/07 **Research Associate/ Lab Manager; Todd Dawson Lab** (Plant Ecophysiology)
University of California, Berkeley
Hired, trained, and oversaw undergraduate research assistants; processed laboratory samples; lead field component of collaborative research on redwood ecosystem properties; managed western North America MIBA samples. Achieved proficiency in running stable isotopes on Finnegan-Mat mass spectrometer, and programming and deploying Campbell Scientific dataloggers and instrumentation.
- 07/06 **Field Assistant; Wayne Sousa Lab** (Community Ecology)
University of California, Berkeley (Fieldwork: Smithsonian Marine Galeta Lab, Panama)
Sampled long-term plots assessing the patterns and mechanisms of canopy tree regeneration in a Caribbean mangrove forest.
- 06/02- 10/03 **Research Assistant; Todd Dawson Lab** (Plant Ecophysiology)
University of California, Berkeley
Performed plant physiological measurements; constructed sap flow probes; processed laboratory samples. Gained proficiency using the following equipment: Scholander Pressure chamber, LiCor 6400, TDR probes, HOBO sensors, Cryomill and Wiley Mill.
- 09/01- 10/03 **Research Assistant; Cheryl Briggs Lab** (Population Ecology)
University of California, Berkeley
Collected field data regarding population dynamics research of tri-trophic system; examined and documented collections with dissecting microscope.

HONORS AND AFFILIATIONS

- Outstanding Scholar**, University of Connecticut Graduate School (2007-2009)
- NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program**, honorable mention (2007 and 2008)
- Member:** Sigma Xi, the Explorer's Club

FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

- NSF Graduate Research Fellow (GRFP)**, (2009-2012). \$30,000/year.
- Organization for Tropical Studies**, fellowship (2009). \$4876.
- Ronald Bamford Endowment Fund**, University of Connecticut (2008, 2009). \$1830.
- Las Cruces Restoration Workshop Research Grant**, (2008). \$2500.
- Organization for Tropical Studies**, post-course research grant (2008). \$1000.
- Graduate Workshop Fellowship**, Tropical Forest Restoration and Conservation Workshop at Las Cruces Biological Station, Costa Rica (2008). Room, board, airfare.
- Biology Fellow Program**, University of California, Berkeley (2003). \$3000.
- Gompertz Grant**, University of California, Berkeley (2003). \$3000.

PUBLICATIONS

- Chazdon, R.L., B. Finegan, R.S. Capers, B. Salgado-Negret, F. Casanoves, **V. Boukili**, N. Norden. Composition and Dynamics of Functional Groups of Trees During Tropical Forest Succession in Northeastern Costa Rica. *Biotropica* (*in review 2009*).
- Ewing, H.A., K.C. Weathers, T.E. Dawson, M.K. Firestone, P. Templer, A. Elliot, **V.K.S. Boukili**. 2009. Fog Water and Ecosystem Function: Heterogeneity in a California Redwood Forest. *Ecosystems* 12(3): 417-433.
- Boukili, V.K.S.**, M. F., Hoopes, C.J. Briggs. 2007. Effect of Microenvironment on a Gall Midge. *Environmental Entomology* 36(2): 441 – 450.
- Schmidt, V. K.** 2003. Dominance interactions at bird feeders. *Berkeley Scientific Journal* 7(1).

PRESENTATIONS

- Boukili, V.K.S.**, R.L. Chazdon. 2008. Las ventajas de la regeneración natural en los bosques húmedos tropicales. Tropical forest restoration and conservation workshop; Las Cruces Biological Station, Costa Rica (public poster session).
- Chazdon, R.L., R.S. Capers, B. Finegan, **V. Boukili**. 2008. Prospects and challenges in assessing ecological groups of tree species during tropical forest succession. MaGrann Conference (Rutgers University).
- Boukili, V.K.S.**, M.F. Hoopes, C.J. Briggs, T.E. Dawson. 2008. Population dynamics of *Rhopalomyia californica*: further support for the Plant Vigor Hypothesis. Monday Evening Seminar, Univ. Connecticut Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology.
- Boukili, V.K.S.**, K.C. Weathers, H.A. Ewing, P. Templer, T.E. Dawson. 2007. Variation in coast redwood forest decomposition and productivity along an environmental gradient. Ecological Society of America, San Jose, CA (Poster Presentation).

COMMUNITY SERVICE

- 01/09- present **Chief Financial Officer and Graduate Student Senator (Green Grads)**
- 08/07- present **Graduate Student Senator (Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Department)**
- 01/06- 01/09 **Chief Financial Officer and Board Member for IBDAT**
- 07/03 - 12/03 **Wildlife Volunteer; East Bay Regional Parks**
- 06/96 – 08/96 **Amigos de las Americas Program; Marin Chapter**

ADDITIONAL SKILLS AND TRAINING

- Languages: **Fluent in written and conversational Spanish**, proficient in French.
- Tropical Plant Systematics. *Organization for Tropical Studies Plant Systematics Course* (OTS-9), June-July 2008.
- Campbell Scientific Programming. *Campbell Scientific CR10X – LoggerNet Training Course*, May 2004.