

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

DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY & EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGY
UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT
75 NORTH EAGLEVILLE ROAD, STORRS, CT, 06269-3043
860-486-1772 • LAURA.CISNEROS@UCONN.EDU

EDUCATION

- University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut, United States** **In Progress**
Ph.D. candidate, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology (Advisor: Dr. Michael Willig) *GPA: 3.925*
Dissertation Title: Effects of human-modified landscapes on multiple dimensions of biodiversity and metacommunity structure.
- Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan, United States** **May 2006**
Bachelor of Science, Zoology, Concentration in Zoo and Aquarium Science, Honors *GPA: 3.822*

PUBLICATIONS

- Cisneros, L.M.** & Willig, M.R. Metacommunity structure of tropical bats in a human-modified landscape and the underlying drivers. *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. *In Prep.*
- Pfeifer, M., Lefebvre, 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., Gardner, T.A., 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., Lens, L., Marsh, C.J., Medina-Rangel, G.F., Melles, S., Mezger, D., 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., Robinson, R., Robinson, W.D., Rytwinski, T., Scherber, C., Slade, E.M., Somarriba, E., Stouffer, P.C., Struebig, M.J., Tylianakis, J.M., Tschardt, T., Tyre, A.J., Urbina Cardona, J.N., Vasconcelos, H.L., Wells, K., Willig, M.R., Wood, E., Young, R.P., Bradley, A.V. & Ewers, R.M. BIOFRAG – A new database for analysing BIOdiversity responses to forest FRAGmentation. **Methods in Ecology and Evolution**, *Submitted.*
- 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**, *Accepted.*
- *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.

PRESENTATIONS

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 Ninety-seventh Annual Meeting of the Ecological Society of America, 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**

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Dimensions of Biodiversity Distributed Graduate Seminar **Aug 2011 - Aug 2012**
University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut

Collaborated with faculty and graduate students from the University of Connecticut and The Field Museum in an effort to explore relationships between environmental drivers and biodiversity along an extensive elevational gradient. Collaborative effort resulted in two presentations at national meetings and is expected to result in five publications (e.g., Cisneros *et al.* *Accepted*).

Field Research Leader**May 2008 – Aug 2008**

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.

Field Research Assistant**Apr 2007 – Jul 2007**

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.

Field Research Assistant**May 2006 – Aug 2006**

Cocha Cashu Biological Station, Manú National Park, Peru

Assisted Ph.D. candidate K. Nicole Gibson with collection of ecological and behavioral data that influence male reproductive strategies in white-bellied spider monkeys (*Ateles belzebuth*).

STUDENT MENTORSHIP**Independent Study: Kathryn Durant, Ryan Hall, Rachael Hyland****Jan 2012 – May 2013**

University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut

Reproductive phenologies of select species and ensembles of phyllostomid bats from northeastern Costa Rica. Resulted in two presentations and a publication in *Journal of Mammalogy*.

REU Program: Lauren Jones, Nicole Rivera**May 2008 – Aug 2008**

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.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE**Conservation Biology Teaching Assistant****Aug 2013 – Dec 2013**

University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut

Assistant instructor of a conservation biology course for graduate students (EEB 5310).

Introductory Biology Teaching Assistant**Aug 2007 – Dec 2012**

University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut

Instructor of introductory biology laboratories for non biology majors (BIOL 1102; Introduction to Biology). Taught laboratory for five semesters.

Mammalogy Teaching Assistant**Aug 2011 – Dec 2011**

University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut

Duties as lead laboratory instructor (EEB 3254/5254; Mammalogy) included preparing and instructing laboratories, and designing practicals. Activities outside of required responsibilities included weekly review sessions, and the development and implementation of a laboratory on specimen collection and preparation. Presented a guest lecture on the Order Chiroptera. Nominated for an EEB Excellence in Student Teaching Award for contributions to laboratory.

Science Camp Teaching Assistant**May 2003 – Aug 2003**

Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum Science Camp, Ann Arbor, Michigan

Assisted with teaching science classes for elementary and middle school students. Helped prepare lesson plans and educational materials.

OUTREACH AND COMMUNITY SERVICE**Elementary Outreach Instructor****Oct 2012**

Franklin Elementary, North Franklin, Connecticut

Designed and taught a lesson on echolocation by bats to 3rd and 4th graders. Lesson was part of a collaborative effort by Ecology and Evolutionary Biology graduate students from the University of Connecticut to introduce adaptations of species to their environment.

Museum Volunteer**Oct 2010 – Feb 2011**

University of Connecticut Biological Collections, Storrs, Connecticut

Responsible for preparing specimens in the mammal collection.

Guest Lecturer**Nov 2008 – Feb 2011**

University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut

Presented current findings of dissertation research to a biology honors course (BIOL 1109; Topics in Modern Biology) and to the University of Connecticut Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society. Guest lecturer in BIOL 1109 for four semesters.

Environmental Education Teaching Assistant**May 2010 – Jul 2010**

Nogal Nature and Community Project, Sarapiquí, Heredia, Costa Rica

Assisted with teaching environmental classes at elementary schools located within banana plantation communities. Designed and led a lesson on the environmental importance of bats at each school. All classes were taught in Spanish.

Zoo Intern**May 2005 – Aug 2005**

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.

Infirmery and Caretaker Intern**Jun 2004 – Nov 2004**

Howell Nature Center, Howell, Michigan

Administered medical attention to injured Michigan wildlife, provided care for orphaned juvenile wildlife, and released rehabilitated wildlife. Cleaned cages for, fed, and provided enrichment activities for un-releasable Michigan mammals and sandhill cranes. Developed skills in raptor and mammal handling.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS AND SERVICES

Reviewer

Ecological Research, Acta Chiropterologica, 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.