

# 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

Ph.D. candidate, Ecology & Evolutionary Biology

**In Progress**

*GPA: 3.925*

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

Advisor: Dr. Michael Willig

### Michigan State University

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

**May 2006**

*GPA: 3.822*

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## 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.

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## 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 bats in a human-modified landscape. *In Prep*.

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## PRESENTATIONS

- 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.

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## 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**

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## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2014 **Field Mammalogy** (EEB 3898), University of Connecticut, *Instructor* (intensive summer session to be taught in May 2014).
- 2007 – 2014 **Foundations of Biology** (BIOL 1102), University of Connecticut, *Laboratory Teaching Assistant* (six semesters).
- 2013 **Conservation Biology** (EEB 5310), University of Connecticut, *Lecture Assistant* (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: Kathryn 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 evaluate 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 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*).
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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**, Notal 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 **Infirmery 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.

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## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS AND SERVICES**

### **Reviewer**

Acta Chiropterologica, Acta Oecologica, Ecological Research, Therya

### **Societies**

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

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## **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.