

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

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## EDUCATION

- Doctor of Philosophy** August 2007 - Present  
Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Advised by Dr. Michael Willig  
University of Connecticut Cumulative GPA: 3.840  
Storrs, Connecticut, United States
- Bachelor of Science** August 2002 - May 2006  
Zoology, Concentration in Zoo and Aquarium Science, Honors Cumulative GPA: 3.822  
Michigan State University  
East Lansing, Michigan, United States

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## GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2010 Clark, Manter, Trainor, Wetzel and Whitworth Endowment Fund, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of Connecticut. **\$750.00**
- 2010 Grants-in-Aid of Research, American Society of Mammalogists. **\$1,290.00**
- 2010 Student Research Scholarship, Bat Conservation International. **\$3,500.00**
- 2010 Multidisciplinary Environmental Research Award for Graduate Students, Center for Environmental Sciences and Engineering. **\$8,000.00**
- 2009 Research Fellowship, Organization for Tropical Studies. **\$2,500.00**
- 2009 Center for Conservation and Biodiversity Award, University of Connecticut Center for Conservation and Biodiversity. **\$600.00**
- 2009 Grants-in-Aid of Research, American Society of Mammalogists. **\$1,000.00**
- 2009 Multidisciplinary Environmental Research Award for Graduate Students, Center for Environmental Sciences and Engineering. **\$5,000.00**
- 2007-2012 University Multicultural Fellowship, University of Connecticut Graduate School. **Five year annual stipend**
- 2002-2003 Beaumont Tower Grant Education Scholarship, Michigan State University. **\$1,000.00**

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## PUBLICATIONS

- Willig, M. R., S. J. Presley, C. P. Bloch, I. Castro-Arellano, L. M. Cisneros, C. L. Higgins, and B. T. Klingbeil. Tropical metacommunities along elevational gradients: Effects of forest type and other environmental factors. *Oikos* DOI: 10.1111/j.1600-0706.2011.19218.x.
- Presley, S. J., L. M. Cisneros, B. D. Patterson, and M. R. Willig. Vertebrate metacommunity structure along an extensive elevational gradient in the tropics: A comparison of bats, rodents, and birds. *Global Ecology and Biogeography In Review*.

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## PRESENTATIONS

- Cisneros, L. M., and M. R. Willig. 2011. Neotropical bat metacommunities in a human-modified landscape. Ninety-first Annual Meeting of the American Society of Mammalogists—A joint meeting with the Australian Mammal Society, Portland, Oregon.
- Cisneros, L. M., M. R. Willig, S. J. Presley, and B. Patterson. 2009. Comparison of tropical metacommunities along an elevational gradient. University of Connecticut Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Graduate Student Research Symposium, Storrs, Connecticut.

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

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

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## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

### Field Research Leader

Luquillo Experimental Forest, El Yunque National Forest, Puerto Rico

May 2008 - August 2008

Led the field component of a study concerning the metacommunity structure of invertebrates along an elevational gradient. Contributions included organization of field materials, development of data collection schedule, and mentorship of two undergraduate students.

### Field Research Assistant

Tiputini Biodiversity Station, Yasuní Biosphere Reserve, Ecuador

April 2007 - July 2007

Assisted with a long-term primate project, Proyecto Primates, directed by Dr. Anthony Di Fiore. Duties included collection of ecological and behavioral data of free ranging white-bellied spider monkeys (*Ateles belzebuth*) and woolly monkeys (*Lagothrix lagotricha*), and a monthly collection of phenology data of food-plant species.

### Field Research Assistant

Cocha Cashu Biological Station, Manu National Park, Peru

May 2006 - August 2006

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

### Laboratory Research Assistant

Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan

September 2005 - May 2006

Assisted Kevin Theis, Ph.D. candidate, with organization and analysis of data involving pasting behavior in hyenas.

### Biodiversity and Conservation Study Abroad

Michigan State University, Panama

May 2004 - June 2004

Participated in field research involving native species of Panama and conducted an independent study on the feeding behavior of three hummingbird species.

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## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### Teaching Assistant

University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut

August 2011 - Present

Assistant teacher for a mammalogy course (EEB 5254; Mammalogy).

### Teaching Assistant

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

May 2010 - July 2010

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 visited. All classes were taught in Spanish.

### Teaching Assistant

University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut

August 2007 - May 2009

Taught introductory biology laboratories for non biology majors (BIOL 1102; Introduction to Biology)

**Teaching Assistant**

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

May 2003 - August 2003

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

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**COMMUNITY SERVICE****Museum Volunteer**

University of Connecticut Biological Collections, Storrs, Connecticut

October 2010 - February 2011

Responsible for organizing, cataloging, and preparing specimens in the mammal collection.

**Zoo Intern**

San Antonio Zoo, San Antonio, Texas

May 2005 - August 2005

Performed basic duties of an animal keeper within the small mammal department, and gained an understanding of captive management and husbandry for a variety of species. Duties included food preparation, cleaning and maintenance of enclosures, and providing enrichment to animals.

**Infirmity and Caretaker Intern**

Howell Nature Center, Howell, Michigan

June 2004 - November 2004

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.

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**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

American Society of Mammalogists

Ecological Society of America

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**ADDITIONAL SKILLS**

**Computer and Technology:** Proficient in the use of Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, Microsoft PowerPoint, Windows, Internet/World Wide Web, Garmin 76S GPS, and Telemetry. Working knowledge of Minitab, R, SAS, ERDAS, and arcGIS.

**Language:** Fluent in written and conversational Spanish.