

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

Doctor of Philosophy

Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Advised by Dr. Michael Willig
University of Connecticut
Storrs, Connecticut, United States

In Progress

Cumulative GPA: 3.900

Bachelor of Science

Zoology, Concentration in Zoo and Aquarium Science, Honors
Michigan State University
East Lansing, Michigan, United States

May 2006

Cumulative GPA: 3.822

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2012 Travel award for Ninety-seventh Annual Meeting of the Ecological Society of America, Dimensions of Biodiversity Distributed Graduate Seminar, National Science Foundation. **\$1,220.24**
- 2010 Clark, Manter, Trainor, Wetzel and Whitworth Endowment Fund, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, 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, University of Connecticut. **\$8,000.00**
- 2009 Research Fellowship, Organization for Tropical Studies. **\$2,500.00**
- 2009 Center for Conservation and Biodiversity Award, Center for Conservation and Biodiversity, University of Connecticut. **\$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, University of Connecticut. **\$5,000.00**
- 2007-2012 University Multicultural Fellowship, Graduate School, University of Connecticut. **Six year annual stipend**

2002-2003 Beaumont Tower Grant Education Scholarship, Michigan State University.
\$1,000.00

PUBLICATIONS

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

PRESENTATIONS

Cisneros, L. M., and M. R. Willig. 2012. Effects of landscape structure on multiple dimensions of bat biodiversity. Ninety-seventh Annual Meeting of the Ecological Society of America, Portland, Oregon.

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

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. Graduate Student Research Symposium, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of Connecticut, 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. Luquillo Experimental Forest LTER 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.

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 on 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*).

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.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE**Introductory Biology Teaching Assistant**

University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut
August 2007 – Present

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

Mammalogy Teaching Assistant

University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut
August 2011 – December 2011

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

Science Camp 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.

STUDENT MENTORSHIP

Independent Study: Kathryne Durant, Ryan Hall, and Rachael Hyland

University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut
January 2012 – Present

Reproductive patterns of select species and ensembles of phyllostomid bats from northeastern Costa Rica.

Research Experiences for Undergraduates: Lauren Jones and Nicole Rivera

Luquillo Experimental Forest, El Yunque National Forest, Puerto Rico
May 2008 – August 2008

Metacommunity ecology of litter spiders along an elevational gradient in the Luquillo Mountains of Puerto Rico.

OUTREACH

Elementary Outreach Instructor

Franklin Elementary, North Franklin, Connecticut
October 2012 - Present

Designed and taught a lesson on the use of echolocation by bats. Lesson was taught to 3rd and 4th graders and 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.

Guest Lecturer

University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut
November 2011

Presented current findings of dissertation research to a The University of Connecticut Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society.

Guest Lecturer

University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut
November 2008 – February 2011

Presented current findings of dissertation research to a biology honors course (BIOL 1109; Topics in Modern Biology). Guest lectured for four semesters.

Environmental Education 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. All classes were taught in Spanish.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Museum Volunteer

University of Connecticut Biological Collections, Storrs, Connecticut
October 2010 – February 2011

Responsible for 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.

Infirmery 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.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS AND SERVICES

Reviewer

Ecological Research

Societies

Ecological Society of America
American Society of Mammalogists
Bat Conservation International

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 R, Matlab, Minitab, EstimateS, arcGIS, and ERDAS.

Language: Fluent in written and conversational Spanish.