

Ricardo J. Rivera

1142 Curtis Ct. Madison, WI

rjrivera@wisc.edu

787-587-7439

EDUCATION

Ph.D Forest Ecology. University of Wisconsin, Madison.

August 2013- present (2nd year).

Dissertation theme: Explore relationships of vegetation patterns and soil nutrients spatial arrangement in tropical secondary forests.

M.S. Plant Biology and Conservation. Northwestern University.

May 2013

Thesis: Quantitative genetics in a fragmented landscape, a study of heritable floral traits in *Oenothera harringtonii* (Onagraceae)

B.S. General Biology. Universidad de Puerto Rico en Bayamón.

May 2010

Courses taken: General Biology, Botany, Zoology, Ecology, Statistics, Genetics, Calculus.

CAREER HISTORY (EXPERIENCE)

Field Assistant Volunteer. Guánica Forest Dynamics Plot -Guánica, PR

May 2012-
Dec 2012

- Member of a field crew in charge of conducting the first census of a 4ha forest dynamics plots in the Guánica Dry Forest Reserve, Puerto Rico. Duties include: tagging trees, taking DBH measurements, data entry, data verification and carrying out any work as needed for the establishment of the plot.
- Managed phenology project and data integrity during the final stages of the project.

Research assistant. Project Echinacea -Chicago, IL

Dec 2011-
May 2012

- Involved in data management and housekeeping backlogged data to ensure integrity of the central database for a long term research project sponsored by The Chicago Botanic Garden and the University of Minnesota.

Laboratory teaching assistant. Northwestern University- Evanston, IL

Sep 2011-
May 2012

- Lead weekly introductory biology laboratory.
- Graded laboratory reports and prepared quizzes.

Undergraduate research fellow- Louis Stokes-Alliance for Minority Participation- Bayamón, PR

Aug 2009-
Dec 2010

- Conducted research with a faculty mentor on seed dispersal by introduced monkeys in the dry region of Puerto Rico.

Volunteer- Conservation Trust of Puerto Rico- Manatí, PR May 2008-
Aug 2010

- Provided assistance in mark and recapture study of common crab populations.
- Instructed citizen scientists in methodology employed in the project.

Undergraduate research fellow- Blandy Experimental Farm- Boyce, VA May 2009-
Aug 2009

- Conducted undergraduate research with *Lema daturaphila* and *Physalis longifolia* system
- Participated in weekly seminars
- Wrote paper, scientific poster and proposal of project to peers

Student Mentor-Louis Stokes-Alliance for Minority Participation- Bayamón, PR Aug 2008-
Aug 2009

- Organized monthly seminars
- Maintained communication with invited speakers
- Promoted student participation in seminars

AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS

2009 National Science Foundation Research Experience for Undergraduate Fellowship
2010 Strategies for Ecology Education, Diversity and Sustainability (SEEDS) Undergraduate Student Travel Award for the Ecological Society of America's Annual Meeting
2010 Shaw Fellowship for Plant Biology and Conservation, Chicago Botanic Garden
2011 Plant Biology and Conservation Research Award, Chicago Botanic Garden
2011 SEEDS Leadership Meeting Travel Award

KEY SKILLS

- Fully bilingual in Spanish and English languages and basic knowledge of the French language
- Skilled at analyzing data using statistical software "R"
- Experienced in conducting field research and laboratory techniques
- Full computer literacy in word processing software, spreadsheet, and graphic presentation packages (Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint)
- Ability to work with teams
- Good interpersonal communication
- Species identification by means of a dichotomous key; this includes use of dissecting microscope and knowledge of anatomical knowledge of plants and beetles
- Motivated and goal-driven approach in solving problems
- Ability to work independently with positive attitude

OTHER EXPERIENCE AND COURSES

- Assisted various faculty members in various academic activities:
 - preparing slides for laboratory course
 - research symposium moderator
 - organizing practical laboratory exam for freshmen course in Biology
- Volunteered in "BioBlitz" event held at the University of Puerto Rico in Bayamón:
 - helped identify insects and plants
 - contributed in organizing the event

- collaborated with local scientist to collect specimens
- Volunteered in the “Festival del Tinglar” event to raise awareness of the Northeastern Ecological Corridor in the northeast of Puerto Rico:
 - prepared quick facts for distribution to the public
 - talked to the public about the importance of the corridor and their involvement to conserve the area

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Ecological Society of America
Botanical Society of America

POSTERS AND PRESENTATIONS

2010 Ecological Society of America annual meeting: What’s eating you? : How predation and parasitoidism suppress populations of *Lema daturaphila*. Poster session.

2012 Ecological Society of America annual meeting: Quantitative genetics in a fragmented landscape, a study of heritable floral traits in *Oenothera harringtonii* (Onagraceae). Oral presentation.