

LAURA BIZZARRI

Department of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology
University of Connecticut
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EDUCATION

Fall 2020 – Present, University of Connecticut

PhD in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

Fall 2017 – Spring 2020, University of Connecticut

Master of Science in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

Fall 2012 - Fall 2016, Michigan State University

Bachelor of Science in Zoology (Graduated with Honors)

PUBLICATIONS

Bizzarri, L., Kuprewicz, E. K., Varma, M., García-Robledo, C. (2022). Phoretic specialization on insect herbivores facilitates mite transportation to host plants. *Entomologia Experimentalis et Applicata*.

Bizzarri, L., Baer, C. S., García-Robledo, C. (2022). DNA barcoding reveals generalization and host overlap in hummingbird flower mites: implications for the Mating Rendezvous Hypothesis. *The American Naturalist*.

COMMENTARIES AND MEDIA FEATURINGS

Kress, W. J. (2022). Specialists to generalists in tropical ecosystems: DNA barcoding allowed scientists to challenge the importance of the 30-year old Mating Rendezvous Hypothesis in the specialization of flower parasites on host plants. *iBOL Barcode Bulletin*, 12(1).

Leung, K., Beukeboom, L. W., & Buellesbach, J. (2022). Novel insights into insect chemical communication—an introduction.

Bizzarri, L. Interview with Sarah McPeck. *Naturalist Selections Podcast*. Apr. 22, 2022.
<https://open.spotify.com/episode/6Pa0gE8ucoMIuo3xjycwtu?si=079c6bbfefb04498>

PRESENTATIONS

Bizzarri, L., Garcia-Robledo, C. Models of human transportation systems show no dispersal limitation in flower mites hitchhiking on hummingbirds. 57th Annual Meeting of the Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation. Jul. 21, 2021.

- Bizzarri, L.,** Mason, K., Isaacs, R. Are survival, mating and oviposition of grape berry moth, *Paralobesia viteana* (Clemens), affected by temperature?
63rd Annual Meeting of the Entomological Society of America, Minneapolis, MN. Poster presentation in undergraduate student competition. Nov. 16, 2015.
- Mason, K., **Bizzarri, L.,** Isaacs, R. Temperature effects on mating and fruit infestation by the grape berry moth, *Paralobesia viteana* Clemens (Lepidoptera: Tortricidae). 25th International Congress of Entomology, Orlando, FL. 15-min talk in graduate student competition. Sep. 27, 2016.

GRANTS

- 2022** Zoology Award, The Center for Conservation and Biodiversity Fund for Research to the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology (\$1500)
- 2021** Zoology Award, The Lawrence R. Penner Endowment Fund for parasite and invertebrate research to the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and Connecticut State Museum of Natural History (\$1500)
- 2020** Thesis Research Fellowship, Organization for Tropical Studies (\$5200)
- 2020** Student Research Grant, Arachnological Research Fund, American Arachnological Society (\$900)
- 2020** Zoology Award, The George Clark Jr. Fund to the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and The Connecticut State Museum of Natural History (\$786)
- 2019** Botany Award, The Ronald Bamford Fund to the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of Connecticut (\$1500)
- 2018** National Geographic Early Explorers Grant, National Geographic (\$8500)
- 2018** Thesis Research Fellowship, Organization for Tropical Studies (\$5200)
- 2018** Center for Conservation and Biodiversity Zoology Award, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of Connecticut (\$1500)
- 2018** Grant in Aid of Research, Sigma Xi (\$1000)
- 2018** Tinker Field Graduate Research Grant, El Instituto, University of Connecticut (\$2000)
- 2018** Student Research Grant, Heliconia Society International (\$1000)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- 2022** Reviewer for *Acarologia*
- 2021** Reviewer for *International Journal of Acarology*
- 2018** Reviewer for *Biotropica*

OUTREACH

- March 2020** Climate Change Action, Connecticut State Museum of Natural History
- November 2018** Environmental Fair (Feria Ambiental), La Selva Biological Station, Costa Rica
- December 2017** Presentation at Maestre Pie Elementary School, Cattolica (RN), Italy

AWARDS/HONORS

July 2021 Alwyn Gentry Award for lightning talk entitled “Models of human transportation systems show no dispersal limitation in flower mites hitchhiking on hummingbirds”, presented at the 57th Annual Meeting of the Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation.

Fall 2012 – Fall 2016 Michigan State University Dean’s List

Fall 2014 – Spring 2016 George T. Bentley Jr. Scholarship

Fall 2013 – Spring 2014 Lansing Community College Dean’s List

ASSOCIATIONS/COMMITTEES

Fall 2021 – Present UConn EEB Graduate Student Association: Vice President

Fall 2020 – Present UConn EEB DEI Committee: Graduate Student Representative

TEACHING/MENTORING EXPERIENCE

Fall 2021 – Present University of Connecticut: Teaching Assistant in EEB2244 – General Ecology

Summer 2021 REU mentor in OTS NSF LSAMP REU program

Fall 2020 – Spring 2021 University of Connecticut: Co-mentor in Senior Honors Thesis for undergraduate student

Fall 2017 – Spring 2021 University of Connecticut: Teaching Assistant in Bio1102 Lab - Introductory Biology