

Abbey R. Yatsko

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EDUCATION

- 2021 – pres. Ph.D. in Biology with focus in biogeochemical cycling and decomposition
University of Miami, Miami, FL
Advisor: Dr. Amy Zanne
- 2020 – 2021 Ph.D. in Biology with focus in biogeochemical cycling and decomposition
George Washington University, Washington, DC
Advisor: Dr. Amy Zanne
- 2016 – 2020 B.S. in Environmental and Sustainability Science, minor in Climate Change Science
Magna Cum Laude with Distinction in Research
Cornell University, Ithaca, NY
Concentration in water, land, and air resources

PUBLICATIONS

- 2021 Clement, R. A., Flores-Moreno, H., Cernusak, L. A., Cheesman, A. W., **Yatsko, A. R.**, Allison, S. D., Eggleton, P., Zanne, A. E., Pinzon-florian, O. P., & Clement, R. A. (2021). Assessing the Australian Termite Diversity Anomaly: How Habitat and Rainfall Affect Termite Assemblages. *Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution* 9, 273.

AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS

- 2021 Washington Biologists Field Club Research Award (\$4,997)
- 2021 Cosmos Club Foundation – Cosmos Scholarship (\$4,500)
- 2020 NSF Graduate Research Fellowship (\$138,000)
- 2020 GWU CCAS Columbian Distinguished Fellowship (\$40,590)
- 2020 Student Section Real/Brown Travel Grant Recipient – ESA
- 2019 NSF Research Experience for Undergraduates Fellow (\$5,000)
- 2018 Cornell University Global Grand Challenge award winner (\$200)
- 2018 Cornell CALS Global Fellow (\$5,000)
- 2018 Pack Natural Resources Management Essay Contest winner

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- Summer 2020 **Research Intern**, Cayuga Lake Watershed Network, Ithaca, NY
- Created an information booklet for lakeside homeowners on sustainable property and home management practices based on research of the climate impact of renewable energy, wastewater treatment, fertilizer use, and local food systems
- 2019 – 2020 **Honors Thesis Student**, Goebel Lab, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY
- Investigated the impact of variable versus constant winter snow cover on

- maple leaf litter decomposition to determine how wintertime decomposition dynamics interact with temperate forest nutrient cycling
- Summer 2019 **NSF-REU Intern**, George Washington and James Cook Universities, Queensland AUS
- Investigated tropical forest C cycling in Queensland, Australia, focusing on the relative roles of termites and fungi in decomposition along a precipitation gradient spanning from tropical savanna to the Daintree Rainforest
- Advisor: Dr. Amy Zanne
- 2018 – 2020 **Research Assistant**, Cornell Department of Natural Resources, Ithaca, NY
- Utilized ArcGIS technology skills to map and take inventory of all tree species within a university forest research plot to quantify the carbon sequestration of McGowan Woods
 - Analyzed weather station data for two forest plots to calculate annual summaries for parameters such as relative humidity, temperature, wind speed, total precipitation, and total solar radiation
- Summer 2017 **Research Assistant**, Cornell Cooperative Extension Energy Corps, Ithaca, NY
- Researched the environmental, financial, and social impacts of large-scale and community solar farms in the US to conduct large scale solar technology research and produce data sheets that laid out the political and structural processes leading up to project installation
- 2015 – 2016 **Research Intern**, Cornell Department of Microbiology and Immunology, Ithaca, NY
- Designed a research project to investigate properties of bacterial and viral influenza co-infections through GFP gene cloning and protein purification

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2021 BISC 2453: Animal Behavior Lab, George Washington University
Graduate Teaching Assistant, 1 semester
- 2020 BISC 2456: General Ecology Lab, George Washington University
Graduate Teaching Assistant, 1 semester
- 2020 NTRES 3100: Applied Population Ecology, Cornell University
Undergraduate Teaching Assistant, 1 semester
- 2020 NTRES 2100: Introductory Field Biology, Cornell University
Undergraduate Teaching Assistant, 1 semester

PRESENTATIONS

- 2020 **Yatsko, A.R.**, Goebel, M. The impact of variable versus constant winter snow cover on maple leaf litter decomposition. Graduate Climate Conference. Online. Poster presentation.
- 2020 **Yatsko, A.R.**, Goebel, M. The impact of variable versus constant winter snow cover on maple leaf litter decomposition. Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting. Online. Poster presentation.
- 2020 **Yatsko, A.R.**, Goebel, M. The impact of variable versus constant winter snow cover on maple leaf litter decomposition. Cornell CALS Undergraduate Honors Thesis Seminar.

Online. Poster presentation.

2018 **Yatsko, A.R.** International Environmental Activism. Cornell CALS Global Fellows Program Seminar. Ithaca, NY. Poster presentation.

SERVICE AND OUTREACH

2020 Yellowstone National Park Hydrology team volunteer
2020 – pres. Friendship Donation Network food recovery volunteer
2018 – 2019 Epsilon Eta Professional Sustainability Fraternity Community Coordinator
2018 Cornell Botanic Garden Weekend Volunteer, Ithaca, NY
2019 Ithaca ReUse Center materials donation volunteer, Ithaca, NY
2017 – 2020 Cornell Varsity Track and Field Spiked Shoe Society vice president
2017 – 2019 Ithaca Children’s Garden Weekend Volunteer, Ithaca, NY
2017 – 2019 Holidays Adopt-A-Family gift coordinator, Ithaca, NY

PEER REVIEWS

Ecology (1)