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

2021 **Yatsko, A.R.**, Flores-Moreno, H., Cheesman, A., Allison, S.D., Cernusak, L., Cheney, R., Clement, R., Zanne, A.E.. Higher internal stem damage in trees in dry compared to wet tropics has implications for forest biomass estimates. American Geophysical Union. Online. Poster presentation.

2021 **Yatsko, A.R.**, Flores-Moreno, H., Cheesman, A., Allison, S.D., Cernusak, L., Cheney, R., Clement, R., Zanne, A.E.. Internal tree stem damage. Entomology 2021. Infographic presentation.

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)

Last Updated: 12.17.2021