Abbey R. Yatsko

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EDUCATION

2021 – pres.	Ph.D. in Biology with focus in biogeochemical cycling in tropical savannas 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, Climate Change Science minor Magna Cum Laude with Distinction in Research Cornell University, Ithaca, NY

PUBLICATIONS

2023 Calvert, J., **Yatsko, A. R.**, Bresgi, J., Cheesman, A. W., Cook, K., Crowe, J., Gambold, I., Jones, C., O'Connor, L., Peter, T., Russell-Smith, P., Taylor, E., Trigger, B., Wijas, B., Zanne, A. (2023). Comparing the effects of internal stem damage on aboveground biomass estimates from terrestrial laser scanning and allometric scaling models. *EcoEvoRxiv*. Preprint. https://doi.org/10.32942/X2M89C.

2023 Flores-Moreno, H., **Yatsko, A. R.**, Cheeseman, A., Allison, S., Cernusak, L., Cheney, R., Clement, R., Cooper, W., Eggleton, P., Jensen, R., Rosenfield, M., Zanne, A. (2023). Higher internal stem damage in dry compared to wet tropics: where are we overestimating forest biomass? *EcoEvoRxiv*. Preprint. https://doi.org/10.32942/X24P48.

2023 Wijas, B., Flores-Moreno, H., Allison, S. D., Chavez, L., Cheesman, A. W., Cernusak, L. A., Clement, R.C., Cornwell, W., Duan, E., Eggleton, P., Rosenfield, M., **Yatsko, A. R.**, Zanne, A. E. (*in review*). Drivers of Wood Decay in Tropical Ecosystems: Termites vs. Microbes Along Spatial, Temporal and Experimental Precipitation Gradients.

2023 Law, S., Flores-Moreno, H., Cheesman, A. W., Clement, R.C., Rosenfield, M., **Yatsko, A. R.**, Cernusak, L. A., Dalling, J., Canam, T., Abo Iqsaysa, I., Duan, E., Allison, S. D., Eggleton, P., Zanne, A. E. (2023). Wood traits explain microbial but not termite-driven decay in Australian tropical rainforest and savanna. *Journal of Ecology*. 10.1111/1365-2745.14090.

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

AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS

2023 Graduate Activity Fee Allocation Committee award ($500)
2023 Ecological Society of Australia travel grant ($250)
2023 UM Biology Department travel fund ($500)

2023 Max and Peggy Kriloff travel fund ($400)
2023 University of Miami Vasiloudes Family Molecular Biology Research Fund ($500)
2023 University of Miami Kushlan Graduate Research Support Fund ($500)
2023 University of Miami Biology Graduate Student Symposium 2nd place talk
2021 UM Biology Department travel fund ($289)
2021 Max and Peggy Kriloff travel fund ($289)
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

PRESENTATIONS

2023 **Yatsko, A.R.**, Calvert, J. Implications of estimating tree biomass using Terrestrial Laser Scanning in hollow savanna trees. TERN Science Symposium 2023. Oral Presentation.
2023 **Yatsko, A.R.**, Wijas, B. Why are trees hollow in tropical savannas? Ecological Society of Australia Annual Meeting 2023. Oral Presentation.
2023 **Yatsko, A.R.**, Flores-Moreno, H., Zanne, A.E.. Internal stem damage in tropical Australian savanna trees significantly reduces biomass. Savanna Science Network Meeting 2023. Oral presentation.
2023 **Yatsko, A.R.**, Cheesman, A., Wijas, B., Jones, C., Cook, K., Calvert, J., Russell-Smith, P., Gambold, I., Zanne, A.E.. Cutting down trees to understand the forest: TLS biomass validation and internal stem damage quantification in the Iron Range. University of Miami Biology Graduate Student Symposium 2023. Oral presentation.
2022 **Yatsko, A.R.**, Flores-Moreno, H., Zanne, A.E.. Internal Tree Stem Damage in Queensland, Australia. Climate Resilience Academy Symposium 2022. Poster presentation.
2022 **Yatsko, A.R.**, Flores-Moreno, H., Zanne, A.E.. Termites, forest carbon, and hollowed out trees. University of Miami Biology Graduate Student Symposium 2022. Online. Oral presentation.
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.

SCIENCE COMMUNIATION

2023 Australian Wildlife Conservancy – Stories from the Field

- Featured research project on termite methane emissions from Brooklyn Wildlife Sanctuary savannas (https://us.australianwildlife.org/research-sheds-light-on-termites-methane-emissions/)

2023 SPARK Festival Inhabited Ipswich

- Collaboration with artist Donna Davis on an art-science installation communicating the role of the carbon cycle in natural and human spaces (https://www.inhabitedipswich.com/donna-rawlings)

2023 Miami Herald interview

- Interview on the role of termites under future warmer climates and how methane emissions are critical to understand (https://www.miamiherald.com/news/local/environment/climate-change/article276897033.html)

2023 Cayuga Lake Watershed Network - Lakeside Living in a Changing Climate

- Plain-language overview of environmental challenges and opportunities for lakeside homeowners in the Cayuga Lake watershed region (https://www.cayugalake.org/wp-content/uploads/CLWN-Lakeside_Living_in_a_Changing_Climate-digital.pdf)

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

2022	BIL575: Graduate Seminar: Analyses in R, University of Miami Graduate Teaching Assistant, 1 semester
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

SERVICE AND COMMUNITY

2023	Earth Day volunteer panel at The Kampong Botanic Garden, Coconut Grove, FL
2023	Fairchild Challenge Lizards on the Loose volunteer, Coral Gables, FL
2023	Fairchild Challenge Poster Panel volunteer, Coral Gables, FL
2022	BioReach guest presenter: Let's Rot! Termites and wood decay, Coral Gables, FL
2022	Fairchild Challenge Environmental Careers Day volunteer, Coral Gables, FL
2021 – pres.	Green Grad Group member, Coral Gables, FL
2021 – 2023	Biology Graduate Student Organization symposium organizer, Coral Gables, FL
2020	Yellowstone National Park Hydrology team volunteer, Gardiner, MT
2020 – 2021	Friendship Donation Network food recovery volunteer, Ithaca, NY
2018 – 2019	Epsilon Eta Sustainability Fraternity community coordinator, Ithaca, NY
2019	Ithaca ReUse Center materials donation volunteer, Ithaca, NY
2018	Cornell Botanic Garden Volunteer, Ithaca, NY
2017 – 2020	Cornell Varsity Track and Field Spiked Shoe Society vice president
2017 – 2019	Ithaca Children's Garden Volunteer, Ithaca, NY
2017 – 2019	Holidays Adopt-A-Family gift coordinator, Ithaca, NY

PEER REVIEWS

Biogeosciences (1)
Ecology (1)

Last Updated: 09 October 2023