Abbey R. Yatsko
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EDUCATION

2021 – pres.	Ph.D. in Biology with focus in carbon 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 (Advisor: Dr. Marc Goebel) Cornell University, Ithaca, NY

PUBLICATIONS

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. (2024). Drivers of Wood Decay in Tropical Ecosystems: Termites vs. Microbes Along Spatial, Temporal and Experimental Precipitation Gradients. *Functional Ecology* 00:1–14. https://doi.org/10.1111/1365-2435.14494.

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. (2024). Shifts in internal stem damage along a tropical precipitation gradient and implications for forest biomass estimation. *New Phytologist* 241(3): 1047-1061. https://doi.org/10.1111/nph.19417.

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.

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* 111:982–993. https://doi.org/10.1111/1365-2745.14090

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. https://doi.org/10.3389/fevo.2021.657444

RESEARCH AWARDS

2024	University of Miami Biology graduate student photo competition 1st place
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)
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)

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.

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

SCIENCE COMMUNIATION

2023 Australian Wildlife Conservancy – Stories from the Field (link: http://tinyurl.com/3dct7xc7)
Featured research project on termite methane emissions from Brooklyn Wildlife Sanctuary savannas

2023 SPARK Festival Inhabited Ipswich (link: http://tinyurl.com/4p28ryc7)
Collaboration with artist Donna Davis on an art-science installation communicating the role of the carbon cycle in natural and human spaces

2023 Miami Herald interview (link: http://tinyurl.com/5cw4w9hz)
Interview on the role of termites and methane emissions under future warmer climates

2020 Lakeside Living in a Changing Climate Handbook (link: http://tinyurl.com/4esuwtxc)
Plain-language overview of environmental challenges and opportunities for lakeside homeowners in the Cayuga Lake watershed region

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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 (Advisor: Dr. John Abel)

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 (Advisor: Dr. Marc Goebel)

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)

2019 Research Assistant, Cornell Department of Natural Resources, Ithaca, NY
Utilized ArcGIS to map and inventory all trees within a university forest research plot to quantify carbon sequestration, analyzed forest plot weather data

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

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 (Advisor: Dr. Gary Whittaker)

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

2023 BioReach guest presenter: Termite Talk, Ponce de Leon Middle School, Coral Gables, FL
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
2022 Biology Graduate Student Organization symposium organizer, Coral Gables, FL
2021 Green Grad Group compost coordinator (current), Coral Gables, FL
2020 Yellowstone National Park Hydrology team volunteer, Gardiner, MT
2021 Friendship Donation Network food recovery volunteer, Ithaca, NY
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

TECHNICAL SKILLS

High proficiency: R and RStudio, Agisoft Metashape, MeshLab, Adobe programs, DJI drone operation and software programs
Limited proficiency: HTML, CSS, JS, Python
Other skills: CPR certified, Deep Learning Specialization coursework

PEER REVIEWS

Biogeosciences (1)
Ecology (1)

Last Updated: 31 January 2024