

Curriculum Vitae

Eli M. Sarnat

PhD Candidate
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Research Interests

Explore novel solutions to the conservation of biological diversity by cultivating relationships between people and their ecosystems. I specialize in the taxonomy and systematics of the ants in order to document, study, and conserve a keystone component of terrestrial biological diversity. My thesis research characterizes the ant diversity of the Fijian archipelago through space and time by describing new species, inferring evolutionary relationships and analyzing biogeographic patterns.

Professional Preparation

- 2005 – Present University of California at Davis. Ph.D. Program in Entomology.
- 2003 University of California at Davis. M.S. in Entomology.
- 2000 University of California at Berkeley. B.S. in Conservation and Resource Studies.
- 1999 Duke University, Organization for Tropical Studies, Costa Rica. Undergraduate Semester Abroad Program.

Academic/Professional Appointments

- 2006 – Present *University of California at Davis, NSF Graduate Research Fellow.* Currently working on my doctoral thesis, “The Ants of Fiji: systematics, biogeography and conservation of an island arc fauna”. Research includes describing new species, inferring evolutionary relationships and analyzing biogeographic patterns.
- 2003 – Present *White Oak Farm & Education Center, President.* White Oak Farm is a 501(c)[3] non-profit organization dedicated to cultivating connections between people and their local ecosystems by pursuing community-based food security, fostering agricultural and ecological diversity, and teaching the arts of sustainable living. Responsibilities include facilitating board of director meetings, oversight of the staff, and oversight of the budget.
- 2006 *Wildlife Conservation Society, Expert Scientist.* Hired to organize and facilitate the Invasive Ant Awareness and Surveillance workshop in Lautoka, Fiji, 2007. Workshop funded by the Oceans, Environment, and Science Initiatives (OESI) Program of the United States Embassy.
- 2005 *Wildlife Conservation Society, Survey Coordinator.* Hired by Dr. Neal Evenhuis (Bishop Museum, Hawaii) and Dr. David Olson (WWF) to manage the NSF-funded Fiji Terrestrial Arthropod Survey. Responsibilities included training Fijian parataxonomists in insect collection and identification, working with the local and national Fijian government, hosting of international scientists, advocating the conservation of biodiversity to rural villagers, and collecting insects and spiders from across the Fijian archipelago.

Eli M. Sarnat, Curriculum Vitae

- 2004 *Lake Tahoe Biodiversity Project, Contract Scientist.* Position funded by the National Forest Service and coordinated by the University of Nevada, Reno. Responsibilities included sorting and identifying over 30 species of ants collected at pitfall traps in the Lake Tahoe Basin.
- 2003 *U. C. Davis, Teaching Assistant.* ENT/EVE 02, “Biodiversity.”
- 2002 *U. C. Davis, Teaching Assistant.* EVE 101, “Introduction to Ecology.”
- 2002 *U. C. Davis, Research Assistant.* Assisted Dr. Philip Ward with the curation and identification of ant specimens.
- 2000 *Smithsonian Institution, Independent Contractor.* Supervised by collection manager Dr. David Furth and hymenopterist curator Dr. Ted Schultz at the National Museum of Natural History, Washington, D.C. Responsibilities included the sorting and identification of insects.
- 1999 *La Selva Biological Research Station, Researcher.* Received grant to study the ant diversity in disturbed habitats in conjunction with Dr. Jack Longino (Evergreen University) the NSF-funded *Arthropods of La Selva* project.
- 1997 – 2000 *U. C. Berkeley, Essig Museum of Entomology, Assistant to Collection Manager.* Assisted the collection manager, Cheryl Barr with the curation and identification of insect specimens.

Grants/Awards

- 2007 USDA-APHIS-MRPBS Cooperative Agreement (\$21,997)
- 2007 U. C. Davis Jastro Shields Research Award (\$450)
- 2006 U. C. Davis Jastro Shields Research Award (\$1,250)
- 2005 Pacific Rim Research Program Minigrant (\$3,000)
- 2005 Ernst Mayr Grant, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University (\$2,000)
- 2003 U. C. Davis Graduate Studies NSF GRF matching grant (\$25,000)
- 2003 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship (\$75,000)
- 2002 U. C. Davis McBeth Memorial Scholarship (\$1,200)
- 2002 U. C. Davis Center for Biosystematics Graduate Research Grant (\$1,000)
- 2002 U. C. Davis Jastro Shields Research Award (\$2,000)
- 1999 Organization for Tropical Studies, Conservation Biology Fund (\$1,000)
- 1999 U. C. Berkeley Educational Minigrant (\$2,500)

Publications

- Sarnat, E. M. 2008. A taxonomic revision of the *Pheidole roosevelti*-group (Hymenoptera: Formicidae) in Fiji. *Zootaxa* 1767:1-36.
- Lucky, A. and E. M. Sarnat. 2007. New species of *Lordomyrma* (Hymenoptera: Formicidae) from Southeast Asia and Fiji. *Zootaxa* 1681: 37-46.
- Evenhuis, N.L., E. M. Sarnat, M. Tokota`a. 2007. A new genus and species of sciarid ant guest from Fiji (Diptera: Sciaridae). In: Evenhuis, N.L. & Bickel, D.J. (eds.), *Fiji Arthropods. IX. Bishop Museum Occasional Papers* 94: 3-10.
- Sarnat, E. M. 2006. *Lordomyrma* (Hymenoptera: Formicidae) of the Fiji Islands. In: Evenhuis, N.L. & Bickel, D.J. (eds.), *Fiji Arthropods. IX. Bishop Museum Occasional Papers* 90: 9-42.
- Sarr, D., D. Odion, B. Truitt, E. Beever, S. Shafer, A. Duff, S. Smith, W. Bunn, J. Rocchio, E. Sarnat, J. Alexander, and S. Jessup. 2004. *Vital Signs Monitoring Plan for the Klamath Network: Phase I Report.* Klamath Network-National Park Service, Ashland, OR. 96 p. plus appendices.
- Suarez, A.V., M. Benard, N.D. Tsutsui, T.A. Blackledge, K. Copren, E.M. Sarnat, A.L. Wild, W.M. Getz, P.T. Starks, K. Will, P.J. Palsbøll, M.E. Hauber, C. Moritz, and A.D. Richman. 2002. Correspondence: Conflicts around a study of Mexican crops. *Nature* 417:897.