

ALANA FREYTES RIVERA, M.S.

Department of Geography, Sustainability, Community,
and Urban Studies
University of Connecticut
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EDUCATION

- Ph.D. University of Connecticut** August 2025
Geography
Expected Graduation May 2028
- M.S. University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras** August 2022-May 2025
Biology- Ecology
Thesis: Predicting Plant-Pollinator Interactions in a Tropical Dry Forest: Spatiotemporal Shifts in Floral Trait Importance
- B.Sc. University of Puerto Rico, Humacao** August 2018- May 2022
Wildlife Management Major

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- Undergraduate Student** August 2021- May 2022
Biology Department
University of Puerto Rico - Humacao Campus
Snail Population Density at the University of Puerto Rico's Humacao Campus Forest
Supervised by Dr. Denny Fernandez del Viso (UPR-H)
- Undergraduate Volunteer and Research Assistant** May 2022- Present
Guánica Dry Forest
Pollination Networks within a Tropical Dry Forest
Primary Investigators: Dr. Julissa Rojas-Sandoval (U-Conn) & Dr. José Fumero (UAGM)
- Research Assistant**
Guajataca State Forest, La Gamba Research Station (Costa Rica), U-Conn Forest (USA) June 2024-Present
Superinvasors: Testing a General Hypothesis of Forest Invasions by Woody Species across the Americas
Primary Investigator: Dr. Julissa Rojas-Sandoval (U-Conn)
- Research Assistant**
University of Puerto Rico's Herbarium June 2025-July 2025
Georeferencing Herbarium orchid specimens from Hispaniola
Primary Investigator: Dr. James D. Ackerman (UPRRP)

PUBLICATIONS

Accepted

Plant-pollinator interactions in a tropical dry forest: spatiotemporal shifts in floral trait importance. **Alana Freytes-Rivera**, Julissa Rojas-Sandoval, José J. Fumero-Caban & James D. Ackerman
Accepted Manuscript at the *Journal of Ecology* on August 2025.

Published

Freytes-Rivera, A., Kardas, E., Genaro, J. A., Fumero-Cabán, J. J., & Rojas-Sandoval, J. First Record of Megachile (Pseudocentron) luctifera (Hymenoptera: Megachilidae) in Puerto Rico.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant

August 2022-May 2023

General Biology I & II Laboratory

Biology Department

University of Puerto Rico-Rio Piedras Campus

Responsibilities: Develop and deliver two 3-hour laboratory sessions over the course of two semesters to first year undergraduate students beginning their scientific careers. Developed quiz and exam materials.

Teaching Assistant

August 2023-July 2025

Research Introduction Course at UPRRP's Herbarium and Zoology Museum

Biology Department

University of Puerto Rico-Rio Piedras Campus

Responsibilities: Develop and deliver a 1.5-hour weekly lecture over the course of three semesters to undergraduate students interested in forging their research skills. Supervise, assign and develop research topics, assignments, and Capstone Projects. Student supervision while working in the Zoological Museum. Curate, organize, and clean zoological collections. Organize and head outreach activities.

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

Museum Collection Curation, Databasing, and Collection Management, Lab Technician Aid and Outreach Support

August 2023- July 2025

Zoology Museum

University of Puerto Rico – Rio Piedras Campus

PRESENTATIONS

XXVII International Congress of Entomology in Kyoto, Japan.

August 2024

With sponsorship from Puerto Rico Science, Technology & Research Fund, Analítica Foundation, and the Municipality of Trujillo Alto.

Puerto Rico Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation

April 2022

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATION

USDA- Natural Resources Career Track

January-May2022

ESA-SEEDS Alumni

January 2022-May 2024

AWARDS

SEEDS Regional Field Trip: Puerto Rico

March 2022

PR-LSAMP: HRD- 200818

April 2022

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Entomology, Insect Ecology and Taxonomy, Conservation, Plant-pollinator interactions, Pollination Syndromes, Machine Learning, Biodiversity, Population Dynamics, Pollination Dynamics, Invasive species, Population and Community Ecology, among others.

LANGUAGES

Spanish: Main language, Advanced in Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing

English: Second Language, Advanced in Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing

COMPUTER SKILLS

Programming: Microsoft Suite, R Studio, MaxEnt, Windows, Apple Mac OS

OTHERS

Skills: First Aid, Museum Collection Management, Personnel and Resource management, Laboratory Technician skills, Macro Photography, Georeferencing, SDMs.

Interest: Archeology, Psychology, History, Music, Arts, Literature, Education

REFERENCES

Dr. Julissa Rojas-Sandoval, Doctorate's Faculty Advisor, Professor & Researcher

Institute of Environment

University of Connecticut

Julissa.rojas-sandoval@uconn.edu

Dr. James D. Ackerman, Master's Faculty Advisor, Professor & Researcher

Department of Biology

University of Puerto Rico-Rio Piedras Campus

Ackerman.upr@gmail.com

Dr. Raymond Tremblay, Professor & Researcher

Department of Biology

University of Puerto Rico-Humacao Campus

Raymond.tremblay@upr.edu

Dr. Fabiola Areces, Researcher & Herbarium Collection Manager

Department of Biology

University of Puerto Rico-Rio Piedras Campus

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Dr. Denny Fernández Delviso Gamez, Professor & Researcher

Department of Biology

University of Puerto Rico-Humacao Campus

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