

Benson Truong

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EDUCATION

Master of Environmental Science and Management, 3.67 GPA (Expected June 2021)

Bren School of Environmental Science & Management – University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB)

Specialization: Conservation Planning | Focus: Environmental Data Science

Highlighted Coursework: Data Analysis, Advanced Data Analysis, Geographic Information Systems, Ecological Principles, Microbial Processes in the Environment (All to be completed by June 2020)

Bachelor of Science in Biology, 3.57 GPA, cum laude (May 2018)

Department of Biological Sciences – California State University, Los Angeles (CSULA)

Research Experience: Research assistant for Dr. Andres Aguilar

Fellowship: Awarded “Minority Biomedical Research Support-Research Initiative for Scientific Enhancement” for studying evolutionary genetics (Funded \$11,000)

Publication: “Complete mitochondrial DNA genomes for two northeast Pacific mesopelagic fishes, the Mexican lampfish (*Triphoturus mexicanus*) and black-belly dragonfish (*Stomias atriventer*)”

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCE EXPERIENCE

Sequencing Lab Technician, Laragen Inc. Sequencing & Genotyping, Culver City, CA (July 2018-August 2019)

- Accessioned and organized thousands of customer’s sequencing sample data using Microsoft Excel
- Operated various types of laboratory equipment including thermal cyclers, sequencers, and centrifuges
- Sequenced thousands of DNA reactions within a 1-day turnaround time using sanger sequencing
- Supervised the night time sequencing team and trained new lab technicians

Research Assistant, The Aguilar Lab, Los Angeles, CA (November 2016-July 2018)

- Compiled data from GenBank and published mitochondrial genome data for two mesopelagic fish species
- Assisted with field data collection at the Los Angeles River
- Operated laboratory equipment such as pipettes, thermal cyclers and gel electrophoresis
- Presented research project evaluating cryptic lineages between *Triphoturus mexicanus* and *Triphoturus oculeum* at conferences and student symposiums

Fisheries Volunteer, United States Forest Service, Arcadia, CA (May 2017-July 2018)

- Identified fish species and annotated field data collections
- Removed non-native crayfish in the Santa Clara river using trap nets to protect the threatened California red-legged frog and endangered unarmored threespine stickleback
- Tested water quality parameters, surveyed soil composition and canopy cover in the San Gabriel River for the endangered Santa Ana sucker fish

PROFESSIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL TRAINING

Student Trainee, CALeDNA Summer Research Institute at UCLA, Los Angeles, CA (June 24-29 2018)

- Surveyed and collected soil samples in the Santa Monica Mountains for future metagenomic assessments
- Learned eDNA sampling/handling and post-sequencing bioinformatics process
- Developed and presented a scientific hypothesis incorporating eDNA to UCLA professors and graduate students

Student Trainee, NHEC Pacific Northwest Institute at University of Portland, Portland, OR (June 2-9 2018)

- Measured soil pH, nitrogen, potassium, and temperature levels and collected aquatic invertebrates
- Conducted vegetation analysis using line-transect quadrat sampling method
- Plotted and annotated various tree species using ArcGIS

- Presented an ecological assessment of Tryon Creek State Park to United States Forest Service employers and other environmental professionals

OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE

Bren Hall Building Manager Assistant, UC Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, CA (October 2019-Present)

- Use construction tools to build storage shelves, door wedges, and a surfboard rack
- Maintain cleanliness of the building
- Perform odd jobs or tasks

Retail Sales Consultant, Office Depot, Temple City, CA (August 2015-December 2016)

- Consistently signed new rewards card for customers
- Supervised store floor when needed
- Cross sold items such as protection plans to fill customer's basket

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Volunteer, San Gabriel Humane Society, San Gabriel, CA (February 2015-May 2018)

- Walked sheltered dogs to the park
- Socialized with homeless cats
- Assisted at adoption event booths

PUBLICATIONS

A. Aguilar, B. R. Truong, & F. Gutierrez#. 2017. Complete mitochondrial DNA genomes for two northeast Pacific mesopelagic fishes, the Mexican lampfish (*Triphoturus mexicanus*) and black-belly dragonfish (*Stomias atriventer*). *Mitochondria DNA Part B*. 3: 21-23.

PRESENTATIONS

Cryptic Speciation and Lineages Within the Genus *Triphoturus* from the Northeast Pacific March 2018

Truong, B; Aguilar, A

The 26th Annual Cal Stata LA Student Symposium RCA, Golden Eagle Ballroom, Poster

Cryptic Speciation and Lineages within the genus *Triphoturus* among Northeast Pacific November 2017

Truong, B; Aguilar, A

Western Society of Naturalists, Hilton Pasadena Hotel, Poster

Cryptic Speciation within the genus *Triphoturus* from the Eastern Pacific Ocean. September 2017

Truong, B; Aguilar, A

CSULA MORE Research Retreat, UCLA Lake Arrowhead Conference Center, Poster

GRANTS & FUNDING

COAST Undergraduate Student Research Grant Program – "DNA Barcoding and Cryptic Difference of Mesopelagic Fishes"

HONORS AND AWARDS

Peter J. Frenkel Foundation supports Recruiting Fellowships 2019

Minority Biomedical Research Support-Research Initiative for Scientific Enhancement 2017-2018

(MBRS-RISE) Fellowship

Rashad E. Razouk Chemistry Scholarship 2016

California State University Los Angeles, Future Scholar award 2015

Freshman Honors at Entrance award 2014

COMPUTER AND LABORATORY SKILLS

Computer: Experience with R, MEGA v7, and ArcGIS, Proficient with Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint

Lab Experience: Comfortable with laboratory equipment such as pipettes, thermal cyclers, sequencers, centrifuges, gel electrophoresis, and UV trans illuminators, worked in GLP certified lab