



Normandie González-Orellana

Data Scientist | Conservation Ecologist

gonormandie.netlify.app

gonormandie@gmail.com

Academic Training:

- 2024-Present Curtin University, Bentley Campus, WA, Australia
PhD Candidate, Environmental Sciences
- 2019-2023 University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus
Biology, MSc
- 2013-2019 University of Puerto Rico, Humacao Campus
General Biology, BS

Certifications:

- 2025 First Aid
St. John, WA, Australia
- 2023 Data Science & Analytics Professional Certificate
Universidad del Sagrado Corazón
- 2022 Data Carpentries Instructor
The Carpentries
- 2020 Data Science Professional Certificate
University of Puerto Rico, Medical Sciences Campus

Research Activities:

- 2024-Present *Burning Bridges: Early eradication and management of invasive species*
Population Biology and Genomics Group, Curtin University, Bentley Campus
P.I.: Prof. Ben Phillips, PhD, School of Molecular and Life Sciences
Abstract: My current research aims to develop models for early eradication and management of invasive species to help with the advancement of informed biosecurity strategies in Australia.
- 2022-Present *Speciation and Pollination of Ghost Orchids in La Hispaniola*
National Botanical Garden Dr. Rafael María Moscoso, Dominican Republic; University of Puerto Rico; Southern Illinois University
P.I.: Eladio Fernández, James D. Ackerman, Kurt Neubig
Abstract: Morphological differences in flowers of *Dendrophylax* sp. in the Dominican Republic suggest speciation and exploitation of different pollinators. We are conducting a floral fragrance composition analysis to detect further differences, as well as using light traps and visitation observations to identify the pollinators.
- 2021 *Debunking Myths: Can the fall of the Phyllophaga sp. Population in Puerto Rico during the 1930's be explained by precipitation?*-**Manuscript in Preparation**
University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus
Mentor: James D. Ackerman, Biology Department
Abstract: Scientists in Puerto Rico introduced the cane toad (*Bufo marinus*) as a biocontrol of *Phyllophaga* sp. (may beetle) infestation in sugar cane plantations in the early 1900s. Although the may beetle problem receded, scientist question whether this was thanks to the toad. In 1984, Freeland, W. J., stated that the decline of the beetle population in Puerto Rico was due to extreme wet and dry seasons between 1930-1936. We use historical data of precipitation in Puerto Rico to evaluate if this statement is true.

2019-2023	<p><i>Limitations to Population Growth of the Epiphytic Psychilis kraenzlinii, an Endemic Puerto Rican Orchid</i> (Master's Thesis)</p> <p>University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras Campus</p> <p>Mentor: James D. Ackerman, Biology Department</p> <p>Abstract: The distribution of orchids is still not well understood, but the literature suggests that the distribution of epiphytic orchids might be influenced by the distribution of their phorophytes (host trees) and Orchid Mycorrhizal Fungi (OMF). My research studies phorophyte specificity and OMF of the endemic epiphyte <i>Psychilis kraenzlinii</i> to elucidate how these affect seed germination.</p>
2017-2019	<p><i>Estimates of Population Density of Feral Cats in Puerto Rico</i></p> <p>University of Puerto Rico, Humacao Campus</p> <p>Mentor: Raymond L. Tremblay, Biology Department</p> <p>Abstract: Puerto Rico has a high number of feral cats, still a reliable estimate of the population size has not been done. We used mark-recapture techniques in three municipalities of Puerto Rico to estimate feral cat population size in the area.</p>
Awards:	
2025-2028	<p><i>WAARC Postgraduate Research Scholarship Program</i></p> <p>Western Australia Agricultural Research Collaboration (WAARC)</p>
2024-2028	<p><i>Premier's Science Fellowship Program</i></p> <p>Department of Energy and Economic Diversification, Government of Western Australia</p>
2021-2023	<p><i>Conservation Committee Grant</i></p> <p>American Orchid Society</p>
2020-2022	<p><i>Bridge to the Doctorate Fellowship</i></p> <p>Puerto Rico Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation/National Science Foundation</p> <p>University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras Campus</p> <p>P.I.: Eduardo Nicolau, PhD. (Grant Number: HRD-1906130)</p>
Experience:	
2023-Present	<p><i>Data Manager</i> (Independent Consulting)</p> <p>The Learning Partnership/Forward Learning</p> <p>(Data Management, Data Science, Spatial Analysis, Educational Material Development)</p>
2023	<p><i>ArcGIS Data Management Fellowship</i></p> <p>The Learning Partnership</p> <p>(Data Curation and Management, Map Creation, Educational Material Development)</p>
2023	<p><i>Data Manager</i> (Independent Consulting)</p> <p>The Learning Partnership</p> <p>(Data Management, Data Science, Educational Material Development)</p>
2022	<p><i>NSF Environmental Data Initiative (EDI) Data Management Fellowship</i></p> <p>University of Wisconsin-Madison, The Learning Partnership/Luquillo LTER-Data Jam Initiative</p> <p>(Data Management, Data Science, Educational Material Development)</p>
2020, 2022-2023	<p><i>Undergraduate Research Supervisor/Teaching Assistant</i></p> <p>Museum of Zoology, University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras Campus, Biology Department</p>

- 2019 *General Biology Laboratory Teaching Assistant*
University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras Campus
Biology Department
- 2019 *R Quantitative Analysis Workshops and Tidyverse Workshops Teacher's Assistant*
UPR-IPERT Program (P.I.: Isar Godreau, Mariluz Franco and Raymond L. Tremblay)
With Dr. Denny S. Fernández Del Viso

Languages:

- ✓ Spanish (Fluent)
- ✓ English (Fluent)

Personal Skills:

- ✓ Independent Work
- ✓ Writing
- ✓ Leadership
- ✓ Empathy
- ✓ Adaptable
- ✓ Quick Learner
- ✓ Literature Research
- ✓ Eloquence
- ✓ Intuition
- ✓ Critical Thinking

Software Skills:

- ✓ R (tidyverse, rmarkdown, quarto, shiny, base)
- ✓ RStudio, Anaconda
- ✓ Python
- ✓ SQL
- ✓ Git & GitHub
- ✓ Microsoft Office
- ✓ Google Suit
- ✓ PowerBi
- ✓ ArcGIS (ArcGIS Online, QGIS, ArcGIS Pro)

Data and Statistical Skills:

- ✓ Data Mining
- ✓ Data Management
- ✓ Relational Databases
- ✓ Data Visualization
- ✓ Descriptive Statistics
- ✓ GLMs and Regression
- ✓ Spatial Data Analysis
- ✓ Qualitative and Quantitative Analysis
- ✓ Data Modelling

Oral Presentations:

- 2024 *Un Día en la Vida de una Ecóloga*
Data Jam Students Symposium 2024
Invited by: The Learning Partnership/LUQ-LTER Schoolyard
- 2023 *Una Carrera en Ciencia de Datos*
Data Jam Students Symposium 2023
Invited by: The Learning Partnership/LUQ-LTER Schoolyard
- 2022 *Second Life of Data: Developing Educational Data for Data Jam Initiative*
LTER All Scientists Meeting 2022
Participated Virtually
- 2019 *Estimates of Population Density of Feral Cats in Puerto Rico*
University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez Campus
38th Puerto Rico Interdisciplinary Scientific Meeting and the 53rd Junior Technical Meeting

2018 *Estimates of Population Density of Feral Cats in Puerto Rico*
University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus
Invasive Biology Class
Invited by Dr. James D. Ackerman

Poster Presentations:

2021 *Highly Vagile but Rare: What Limits the Local Distribution of an Epiphytic Orchid*
Online Symposiums
39th Puerto Rico Interdisciplinary Scientific Meeting and the 54th ACS Junior Technical Meeting
[Botany2021 Symposium](#)

2020 *Debunking Myths: Can the fall of the Phyllophaga sp. Population in Puerto Rico during the 1930's be explained by weather conditions?*
Online Symposium
43rd Senior Technical Meeting, 54th Junior Technical Meeting & PR-LSAMP Fall Meeting

2019 *Estimates of Population Density of Feral Cats in Puerto Rico*
University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus
Puerto Rico's Invasive Species Awareness Symposium
Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources

Workshops & Webinars:

2022 *Introducción a R y Manejo de Datos con el Paquete Tidyverse*
Workshop at the Jardín Botánico Nacional Dr. Rafael M. Moscoso, República Dominicana
Invited by Betsaida Cabrera

2022 *Introduction to R, Descriptive and Inferential Statistics with R*
Workshop for REU Students at the University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus
Invited by Dr. James D. Ackerman

2021 *Creación de Mapas Interactivos con Leaflet*
Webinar
Analítica Fundación
Available at: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1gdCGTHxlbBAiY21GHH39A>

2021 *Manejo de Datos: Un vistazo al paquete dplyr*
Webinar
Analítica Fundación
Available at: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1gdCGTHxlbBAiY21GHH39A>

2020, 2021,
2022, 2023 *Descriptive Statistics with R*
Zoology Museum, University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus
BIOL4990-Introduction to Research (Undergraduate Course)

2020 *CATastrophe: Estimating Cat Population Sizes in Islands using R*
Webinar, Universidad de San Carlos de Guatemala
Bioremediation (Undergraduate Course)
Invited by Alejandro Ruiz

Publications:

- Ackerman, J. D., Fernández, E., Cabrera, B., & González-Orellana, N. (2025). A new miniature ghost orchid appears in the Dominican Republic. *Lankesteriana: International Journal on Orchidology*, 25(1), 1–7. <https://doi.org/10.15517/lank.v25i1.62821>
- Ackerman, J. D., & González-Orellana, N. (2021). Explosive range expansion of *Eulophia graminea* (Orchidaceae) in Puerto Rico and the West Indies. *Lankesteriana: International Journal on Orchidology*, 21(3), 307–312. <https://doi.org/10.15517/lank.v21i3.48871>
- González-Orellana, N., Salazar-Mendoza, A., Numan, Y. & Ackerman, J.D. (2022). Understanding Orchid Conservation: One Species at a Time. *Orchids*, 91(12), 914–919.
- González-Orellana, N., Salazar Mendoza, A., Tremblay, R. L., & Ackerman, J. D. (2024). Host suitability for germination differs from that of later stages of development in a rare epiphytic orchid. *Lankesteriana: International Journal on Orchidology*, 24(1), 93–114. <https://doi.org/10.15517/lank.v24i1.59617>
- McGee, S., Báez-Rodríguez, N., Castro-Rivera, C., González-Orellana, N., McGee-Tekula, R., & Rubin, A. (2024). Luquillo Data Jam: A powerful model for broadening participation in science. *The Earth Scientist* 41(2), 6-18. <https://nestanet.org/TES>
- McGee, S., Zimmerman, J. K., Tekula, R. M., González-Orellana, N., & Báez Rodríguez, N. (2024). Scientific communities of practice: A K12 outreach model that supports authentic scientific inquiry around very long-term studies. *Online Journal of Ecology and Environmental Science*, 2(1). <https://irispublishers.com/ojees/pdf/OJEES.MS.ID.000533.pdf>

Volunteer Experience:

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| 2022 | The Learning Partnership
Contributions: Data Management, Educational Material Development, Translator |
| 2021 | Analítica Fundación, Inc.
Contributions: Imparting and planning webinars
Webpage: https://analiticafundacion.wordpress.com/ |