

Maëlle DEVILLEBICHOT

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PROFILE

MSc Researcher with a strong interest in shark movement ecology and habitat use, to help design more effective and adaptive protection measures. Several past experiences working with marine megafauna on behavior, physiology, trophic ecology and conservation.

EDUCATION

Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree in Marine Environment

2023-2025

University of Southampton, UK — University of the Basque Country, Spain — University of the Azores, Portugal

- Field work: Southampton estuary, Faial and Terceira islands (Azores)
- Master Thesis at Macquarie University, Australia, over one semester, ending in Sep 2025

Achievements:

- GPA: 9/10
- Class representative

MSc in Applied Ethology and Animal Biology

2021-2023

Linköping University, Sweden

- Master Thesis at the Oceanogràfic of Valencia, Spain, over two semesters

International Bachelor in Biology

2018-2021

Université Grenoble Alpes, France

- Class taught and evaluated in english during Year 1 & 2

Achievements:

- GPA: 13.60 (max 20.00)
- Accepted at Gothenburg University, Sweden, for an international exchange under an Erasmus+ grant during Year 3 (cancelled because of Covid-19)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Visiting Scholar for a Master Thesis Project

Feb 2025-Jul 2025

Marine Ecology Group, Macquarie University, Australia

- Title: “Assessing the trophic ecology of shortfin mako sharks (*Isurus oxyrinchus*) in temperate eastern Australia”
- Supervised by Prof Jane Williamson and PhD student Tristan Guillemin

Responsibilities:

- Design and application of a biochemical protocol to prepare 108 shark muscle samples for stable isotope analysis, without supervision

- Observation and participation in the field during game fishing tournaments to take measurement and samples on fish species (striped marlin, mako shark, tiger shark)
- Statistical analyses of the stable isotope results using generalised mixed models (R Studio)
- Writing of a scientific report and presentation in September 2025
- Drafting a scientific article as a first author (in progress)

Master Thesis Project

Jun 2022-May 2023

Fundación Oceanogràfic of Valencia, Spain

- Title: “Ontogeny of the Diving Capacity in Young Loggerhead Sea Turtles (*Caretta caretta*)”
- Supervision: Dr Andreas Fahlman (Linköping University) and Dr Nathan J. Robinson

Responsibilities:

- Working on hatchling sea turtles part of the Head-Starting conservation program
- Design of an ethogram and Video Identification on the software Boris
- Daily feeding of adult green sea turtles at the aquarium as part of another project
- Writing of a scientific report, design of a poster and webpage, and thesis presentation in May 2023
- Drafting a scientific article as a first author (in progress)

Research Assistant

Jan 2023-Mar 2023

Institute of Ecology and Evolution, Bern University, Switzerland

- Study on mate recognition in the Tokay gecko, supervised by Dr Birgit Szabo

Responsibilities:

- Design and application of a protocol to record animal behavior under a controlled setting
- Video Identification on the software Boris
- Co-writing a scientific article in the Journal *Animal Cognition* published in August 2024

VOLUNTEER WORK

Country Representative for France

May 2025-Present

Erasmus Mundus Association EMA

Responsibilities:

- Assisting prospective students of Erasmus Mundus master programs
- Being the ambassador of EMA at a national level

International Volunteer

Jun 2023-Jul 2023

Archelon Association, Crete, Greece

- Participation in the actions of an NGO for the conservation of sea turtles in Greece

Responsibilities:

- Beach monitoring to find and protect sea turtle nests during nesting season (mission leader)
- Preparation of the nesting sites for hatching season
- Public awareness for tourists and greek residents about the association's actions

Educational Support

Sep 2015-Jun 2016

Entraide Jeunes Association, Annecy, France

- Tutoring an elementary school student with difficulties for one academic year

OTHER EMPLOYMENTS

Laboratory Assistant

Jun 2024-Aug 2024

Etablissement Français du Sang, Annecy, France

- Biological Qualification for the blood donation service

Responsibilities:

- Blood sample manipulation in a stressful environment
- Use of tube sorting and centrifugation machines

Room Usher at the International Labor Conference

Jun 2019

United Nations, Geneva, Switzerland

Responsibilities:

- Room surveillance and welcoming of Head of States and visitors
- Provide information in French, English and Spanish

PUBLICATION

Verger, MO., Devillebichot, M., Ringler, E. et al. Sex-specific discrimination of familiar and unfamiliar mates in the Tokay gecko. *Anim Cogn* 27, 55 (2024).
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10071-024-01896-0>

Aug 2024

- Contribution: investigation, methodology, writing of the original draft and review

GRANTS

- Erasmus+ Mobility Grant (2800€) and Waiver Minus Grant (1000€) 2024-2025
- Erasmus+ Mobility Grant (2800€) and Waiver Minus Grant (1000€) 2023-2024
- Erasmus+ Grant for a study placement (3740€) 2022

KEY SKILLS

Technical:

- Diving SSI Advanced Adventurer (2024)
- Animal handling and measurement (sharks (dead), turtles, geckos)
- Video/Photo Identification
- Softwares: R Studio, Boris, QGIS

Languages:

- French: native
- English: full professional proficiency (C2)
- Spanish: limited professional proficiency (B2)

REFEREES

Prof Jane Williamson | Head, Marine Ecology Group
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