

# Axl S. Cepeda

PhD Student at Dr. Escalante's Lab,  
Institute for Genomics and Evolutionary Medicine, iGEM -  
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## EDUCATION

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Temple University | Philadelphia, PA  
PhD in Biology

Expected 2026

National University of Colombia | Bogotá, Colombia  
Masters of Science, Biology

April 2020

National University of Colombia | Bogotá, Colombia  
Bachelors of Science, Biology

April 2017

## SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS

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Gutiérrez-Liberato, G. A., Lotta-Arévalo, I. A., González, L. P., Vargas-Ramírez, M., Rodríguez-Fandiño, O., **Cepeda, A. S.**, and Matta, N. E. (2021). The genetic and morphological diversity of Haemogregarina infecting turtles in Colombia: Are mitochondrial markers useful as barcodes for these parasites? *Infection, Genetics and Evolution*, 105040.

**Cepeda, A. S.**, Pacheco, M. A., Escalante, A. A., Alzate, J. F., & Matta, N. E. (2021). The apicoplast of *Haemoproteus columbae*: A comparative study of this organelle genome in Haemosporidia. *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution*, 161, 107185.

González, L. P., Pacheco, M. A., Escalante, A. A., Maldonado, A. D. J., **Cepeda, A. S.**, Rodríguez-Fandiño, O. A., ... & Matta, N. E. (2019). *Haemocystidium* spp., a species complex infecting ancient aquatic turtles of the family Podocnemididae: First report of these parasites in *Podocnemis vogli* from the Orinoquia. *International Journal for Parasitology: Parasites and Wildlife*.

**Cepeda, A. S.**, Lotta, I. A., Pinto-Osorio D.F., Macías-Zacipa J., Valkiūnas, G., Barato P., Matta, N. E (2019). The experimental characterization of the complete life cycle of *Haemoproteus columbae*, with description of the natural host-parasite system to study this infection. *International journal for parasitology*.

Pacheco, M. A., **Cepeda, A. S.**, Bernotienė, R., Lotta, I. A., Matta, N. E., Valkiūnas, G., & Escalante, A. A. (2018). Primers targeting mitochondrial genes of avian haemosporidia: PCR

detection and differential DNA amplification of parasites belonging to different genera.  
*International journal for parasitology.*

## **PANEL AND ORAL PRESENTATIONS**

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**V Bogotá Microbial Meeting Bomm, 2019** | Bogotá, Colombia  
National University of Colombia | **Oral presentation**

**American Ornithological Society (137th Stated Meeting) 2019** | Anchorage, AK  
American Ornithological Society | **Poster presentation**

**4th International Conference on Malaria and Related Haemosporidian Parasites of Wildlife 2018** | Beijing, China  
Beijing Normal University | **Oral presentation**

**Fifth International and Interdisciplinary Workshop on Mathematical Modeling of Environment and Evolution 2018** | Villa de Leyva, Colombia  
University of Andes | **Oral presentation**

**First International Congress of Science, Technology, and Innovation of the Americas 2017** | Bogotá, Colombia  
National University of Colombia | **Poster presentation**

**Symposium of Degree Works - Biology 2016-II** | Bogotá, Colombia  
National University Of Colombia | **Oral presentation**

## **HONORS AND AWARDS**

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**Temple University, 2021** | Philadelphia, PA  
**University Fellowship**

**National University of Colombia, 2020** | Bogotá, Colombia  
**Master's Thesis Laureate**

**University of Andes, 2018** | Bogotá, Colombia  
**Invitation letter 5th IIWEE**

**Beijing Normal University, 2018** | Beijing, China  
**Award-winners of the Student Grants**

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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**Temple University** | Philadelphia, PA  
**Research Assistant / Teacher's Assistant**

**Jan. 2021 – Present**

## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

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**National Institute of Legal Medicine | Bogotá, Colombia**  
**Forensic University Professional**

**Feb. 2018 – Oct. 2020**

## **ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS**

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**Temple University | Philadelphia, PA**  
**Internship Research**

**April 2019**

**National University of Colombia | Bogotá, Colombia**  
**Student Assistant**

**Jan. 2017 – Jan. 2018**

**National University of Colombia | Bogotá, Colombia**  
**Student Assistant**

**March 2016 – July 2016**

**National University of Colombia | Bogotá, Colombia**  
**Student Assistant**

**Oct. 2015 – Dec. 2015**