

# Sungsik Kong

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## CONTACT INFORMATION

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University of Wisconsin-Madison *website:* sunsik-kong.github.io  
Madison, WI. 53715 USA

## SUMMARY

- I am a *computational evolutionary biologist* with training in biology, statistics, computer science, and data science.
- My research focuses on *phylogenetic methods*, *phylogenetic networks*, and *reticulate evolution*.
- I am *adventurous* and *traveled* in Asia for a year on foot, bicycle, and motorbike.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island, USA** *Scheduled in Fall 2024*  
*Institute for Computational and Experimental Research in Mathematics* *Postdoctoral fellow*  
(ICERM)

**University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, Wisconsin, USA** **2023-present**  
*Wisconsin Institute for Discovery* *Postdoctoral research associate*  
Mentor: Dr. Claudia Solís-Lemus

## EDUCATION

**The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, USA** **2018-2022**  
*Ph.D. in Evolution, Ecology, and Organismal Biology*  
*Presidential fellow* 2022  
Dissertation: Towards the network of life: Phylogenetic networks as a tool to understand complex evolutionary histories  
Advisor: Dr. Laura Kubatko

**University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada** **2013-2015**  
*M.Sc. in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology*  
Thesis: On the use of Median-Joining networks: A philosophical and empirical evaluation of its suitability in evolutionary biology  
Advisor: Dr. Robert Murphy

**University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada** **2006-2012**  
*B.Sc. in Zoology and Ecology and Evolutionary Biology*  
Undergraduate thesis advisors: Drs. Robert W. Murphy and Deborah A. McLennan

## PUBLICATIONS

**Total number:** 18  
**h-index:** 7 [[Google scholar](#)]  
\*Correspondence; ‡Co-correspondence; †Equal contribution

### Selected peer-reviewed journal articles

- [18] **Kong S\***, Sánchez-Pacheco SJ, and Murphy RW. (2023) Median-Joining Networks and Bayesian phylogenies often do not tell the same story. *Bulletin of the Society of Systematic Biologists* 2:1 1–13 doi:10.18061/bssb.v2i-1.9625
- [17] **Kong S** (2022) Digest: Frequent hybridization in *Darevskia* rarely leads to the evolution of asexuality. *Evolution* 76:9 2216–2217 doi:10.1111/evo.14587
- [16] **Kong S†**, Pons JC†, Kubatko LS, and Wicke K. (2022) Classes of phylogenetic networks and their mathematical and biological significance. *Journal of Mathematical Biology* 84:47 doi:10.1007/s00285-022-01746-y

- [15] **Kong S** and Kubatko LS. (2021) Comparative performance of popular methods for hybrid detection using genomic data. *Systematic Biology* 70:5 891–907 doi:10.1093/sysbio/syaa092
- [14] Sánchez-Pacheco SJ<sup>‡</sup>, **Kong S<sup>‡</sup>**, Pulido-Santacruz P, Murphy RW, and Kubatko L. (2020) Median-joining network analysis of SARS-CoV-2 genomes is neither phylogenetic nor evolutionary. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A* 117:23 12518–12519 doi:10.1073/pnas.2007062117
- [13] **Kong S<sup>‡</sup>**, Sánchez-Pacheco S<sup>‡</sup>, and Murphy RW. (2016) On the use of Median-Joining Networks in evolutionary biology. *Cladistics* 32: 691–699 doi:10.1111/cla.12147

### Collaborative peer-reviewed journal articles

- [12] Fu M, Eimes JA, **Kong S**, Lamichhaney S, Waldman B (2023) Identification of major histocompatibility complex genotypes associated with resistance to an amphibian emerging infectious disease. *Infection, Genetics and Evolution* 105470 doi:10.1016/j.meegid.2023.105470
- [11] Glon H, Häussermann V, Brewin P, Brickle P, **Kong S**, Smith M, and Daly M. (2023) There and back again: The unexpected journeys of *Metridium* de Blainville, 1824 between the old oceans and throughout the modern world. *Biological Bulletin* 244:1 doi:10.1086/723800
- [10] Nguyen HQ, Ho P-T, **Kong S**, Bae Y, Pham TH, and Jang Y. (2022) A time-calibrated mitogenomic phylogeny suggests that Korean *Hyalessa fuscata* is a bridge between Chinese and Japanese *H. maculaticollis*. *Journal of Genetics* 102:9 doi:10.1007/s12041-022-01405-7
- [9] Nguyen HQ, Kim E, Bae Y, Chae S, Ji S, Heo J, **Kong S**, Nguyen TK, Pham TH, and Jang Y. (2022) An effective method for accurate life-stage delimitation of cicadas. *Journal of Asia-Pacific Entomology* 101952 doi:10.1016/j.aspen.2022.101952
- [8] Glon MG, Broe MB, Crandall KA, Daly M, **Kong S**, Thoma RF, and Freudenstein JV. (2022) Anchored hybrid enrichment resolves the *Lacunicambarus* (Decapoda: Cambaridae) phylogeny. *Journal of Crustacean Biology* 42:1 ruab073 doi:10.1093/jcabi/ruab073
- [7] Kim M, Nguyen HQ, Yi Y, Ahn J, Kim YE, Jang S, Kim S, **Kong S**, and Borzée A. (2020) Policy recommendation on whaling, trade and watching of cetaceans in the Republic of Korea. *Biodiversity Journal* 11: 255–258 doi:10.31396/Biodiv.Jour.2020.11.1.255.258
- [6] Weiringa JG, Boot MR, Dantas-Queiroz MV, Duckett D, Fonseca EM, Glon H, Hamilton N, **Kong S**, Lanna FM, Mattingly KZ, Parsons DJ, Smith ML, Stone BW, Thompson C, Zuo L, and Carstens BC. (2020) Does habitat stability structure intraspecific genetic diversity? It's complicated... *Frontiers in Biogeography* e45377 doi:10.21425/F5FBG45377
- [5] Borzée A, Purevdorj Z, Kim YI, **Kong S**, Choe M, Yi Y, Kim K, Kim A, and Jang Y. (2020) Breeding preferences in the Treefrogs *Dryophytes japonicus* (Hylidae) in Mongolia, the northern limit of their range. *Journal of Natural History* 53: 2685–2698 doi:10.1080/00222933.2019.1704458
- [4] Bae Y, **Kong S**, Yi Y, Jang Y, and Borzée A. (2019) Additional new type of threat to *Hynobius* salamander eggs: predation by loaches (*Misgurnus* sp.) in agricultural wetlands. *Animal Biology* 69:4 451–461 doi:10.1163/15707563-20191070
- [3] Groffen J, **Kong S**, Jang Y, and Borzée A. (2019) The invasive American bullfrog (*Lithobates catesbeianus*) in the Republic of Korea: history and recommendation for population control. *Management of Biological Invasions* 10:3 517–535 doi:10.3391/mbi.2019.10.3.08
- [2] Borzée A, **Kong S**, Didinger C, Nguyen HQ, and Jang Y. (2018) A ring-species or a ring of species? Phylogenetic relationship between two treefrog species around the Yellow Sea: *Dryophytes suweonensis* and *D. immaculatus*. *The Herpetological Journal* 28: 160–170
- [1] Kim K, **Kong S**, Kim YI, Borzée A, Bae Y, and Jang Y. (2018) Japanese hard ticks (*Ixodes nipponensis*) parasitizing on the endangered leopard cat (*Prionailurus bengalensis euptilura*) in the Republic of Korea. *Animal Systematics, Evolution and Diversity* 34:1 23–26 doi:10.5635/ASED.2018.34.1.032

## Policy recommendation

- [1] Borzée A, Nguyen HQ, Ahn J, Kim M, Kim S, Jang S, **Kong S**, Kim YE, and Yi Y. (2017) Policy recommendation on the negative impact of infrastructure development on the population of endangered Long-Tailed Goral in Oseck-Kkeutchong. *Society for Conservation Biology Korean Chapter*

## Submitted

- [1] **Kong S**, Swofford DL, and Kubatko LS. (In Revision) Inference of phylogenetic networks from sequence data using composite likelihood. Preprint available on *bioRxiv* at 10.1101/2022.11.14.516468v1
- [2] Peng J, **Kong S**, and Kubatko L. (In Review) A likelihood ratio test for hybridization under the multispecies coalescent. Preprint available on *bioRxiv* at 10.1101/2023.06.20.545699

## TALKS AND PRESENTATIONS

\*Virtual presentation

## Invited talks

- [1] ICERM, Brown University, Providence, RI., USA *Scheduled in 2024*
- [2] Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology, Hanoi, Vietnam 2024
- [3] Sungshin Women's University, Seoul, South Korea 2024
- [4] Ewha Womans University, Seoul, South Korea 2024
- [5] The International Society for Computational Biology (ISCB),  
Society for Molecular Biology and Evolution (SMBE)\*  
*EvolCompGen webinar series* 2023
- [6] Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics,  
New York-New Jersey-Pennsylvania Section (SIAM-NNP),  
New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT), Newark, NJ., USA  
*Mathematics of Evolution Minisymposium* 2023
- [7] University of Wisconsin-Madison, WI., USA [[video](#)] 2023  
*UW-Madison Fall 2023 Evolution Seminar Series*
- [8] University of Wisconsin-Madison, WI., USA 2023  
*UW-Madison Postdoctoral Research Symposium Blitz Talks Competition*
- [9] Taming the BEAST, Squamish, BC., Canada 2023  
*Squamish BEAST Tamers*
- [10] Botany Meeting, Boise, ID., USA 2023  
*Seeing the Network for the Trees Symposium*
- [11] Algorithms and Complexity in Phylogenetics\* [[video](#)] 2022
- [12] Indiana University, Bloomington, IN., USA 2022
- [13] University of California San Diego, CA., USA\* 2022
- [14] Evolution Meeting, Cleveland, OH., USA 2022  
*Society of Systematic Biologists (SSB) Ernst Mayr Award Competition*
- [15] Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA., USA 2022  
*Department of Biological Sciences Seminar*
- [16] The Korean Association of Biological Sciences, Seoul, South Korea\* 2021  
*The Ecological Society of Korea Section*
- [17] Workshop in Mathematical and Computational Biology\* [[video](#)] 2021  
*Bioinformatics Section*

- [18] Misericordia University, Dallas, PA., USA\* 2021  
*Biology Seminar Series*
- [19] The Stone Laboratory, Gibraltar Island, OH., USA 2019  
*EEOB 1930 Introduction to Biological Studies–Aquatic Biology*
- [20] Ewha Womans University, Seoul, South Korea 2016  
*Eco-science/Eco-creative Graduate Seminar*
- [21] Ewha Womans University, Seoul, South Korea 2013  
*Laboratory of Behavior and Ecology Weekly Seminar*

#### Regular talks

- [1] University of Wisconsin-Madison, WI., USA 2023  
*Wisconsin Institute for Discovery Symposium*
- [2] Evolution Meeting\* 2021
- [3] The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH., USA\* 2021  
*Evolution, Ecology, and Organismal Biology (EEOB) Annual Darwin Series*
- [4] The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH., USA 2019, 2020  
*Evolution & Ecology Club*
- [5] SSB Standalone Meeting, Gainesville, FL., USA 2020
- [6] Ewha Womans University, Seoul, South Korea 2017  
*Animal Communication Symposium*

#### Poster presentations

- [1] Intelligent Systems for Molecular Biology (ISMB), ISCB, Madison, WI., USA 2022  
*Best Poster Award Winner*
- [2] Evolution Meeting, Providence, RI., USA 2019
- [3] The Korean Association of Biological Sciences, Yong-In, South Korea 2017
- [4] Korean-American Scientists and Engineers Association (KSEA), 2014  
Young Generation Technical and Leadership Conference (YGTLC), Houston, TX., USA
- [5] University of Toronto, Toronto, ON., Canada 2012  
*Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology undergraduate research Fair*

#### ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

#### Academic visit

- [1] University of Wisconsin–Madison, WI., USA 2022  
*Wisconsin Institute for Discovery* Visiting Ph.D. student  
Mentor: Dr. Claudia Solís-Lemus
- [2] Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA., USA 2022  
*Department of Biological Sciences* Visiting Ph.D. student  
Mentor: Dr. Jeremy Brown

#### Research experience

- [1] Ewha Womans University, Seoul, South Korea 2013, 2016–2017  
*Division of Eco-science* Researcher  
Mentors: Drs. Jae Chun Choe and Yikweon Jang
- [2] University of Toronto, ON., Canada 2011–2013  
*Faculty of Forestry* Work-study student &  
Mentors: Dr. Sandy Smith and Eric Davies Biodiversity technician

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|--|--|
| [3] Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, ON., Canada<br><i>Centre for Biodiversity and Conservation Biology</i><br>Mentor: Dr. Robert Murphy | 2012<br><i>Student researcher</i>      |
| [4] University of Toronto, ON., Canada<br><i>Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology</i><br>Mentor: Dr. Deborah McLennan        | 2011–2012<br><i>Student researcher</i> |
| [5] University of Toronto, ON., Canada<br><i>Cities Centre, Department of Geography</i><br>Mentor: Dr. Kristian Larsen                 | 2010<br><i>Student data collector</i>  |

### Fieldwork experience

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|---|-----------|
| [1] Laos, Indonesia, Mongolia, China, and South Korea | 2016–2017 |
| [2] Indonesia, Laos, and South Korea                  | 2016      |
| [3] Greater Toronto Area (GTA)                        | 2010–2013 |

### TEACHING AND MENTORING EXPERIENCE

#### International workshops

##### *Instructor*

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|--|------|
| [1] Methodological Advances in Reticulate Evolution, Botany Meeting, Boise, ID., USA | 2023 |
| [2] Squamish BEAST Tamers, Taming the BEAST, Squamish, BC., Canada                   | 2023 |

##### *Teaching assistant (†Lead teaching assistant)*

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|--|--------------------------|
| [1] Workshop on Molecular Evolution, Woods Hole, MA., USA† | <i>Scheduled in 2024</i> |
| [2] Workshop on Molecular Evolution, Woods Hole, MA., USA  | 2023                     |

#### The Ohio State University

##### *Teaching assistant*

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|---|---|
| [1] <i>EEOB 3310</i> Evolution  | (Spring, Fall) 2021<br>(Spring, Summer, Fall) 2020<br>(Spring, Fall) 2019 |
| [2] <i>EEOB 2520</i> Human Physiology                                   | (Summer) 2021   |
| [3] <i>EEOB 1930</i> Introduction to Biological Studies–Aquatic Biology | (Summer) 2019   |
| [4] <i>BIOL 1113</i> Energy Transformation and Development              | (Fall) 2018   |

#### University of Toronto

##### *Teaching assistant*

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|--|---|
| [1] <i>BIO 120</i> Adaptation and Biodiversity                     | (Summer) 2015<br>(Summer) 2014<br>(Fall) 2013 |
| [2] <i>BIO 220</i> From Genomics to Ecosystems in a Changing World | (Spring) 2015                                 |
| [3] <i>EEB 362</i> Macroevolution                                  | (Fall) 2014                                   |
| [4] <i>EEB 386</i> Avian Biology                                   | (Spring) 2014                                 |

### (Co-)supervision of undergraduate and graduate students

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|-----|--|-----------|
| [1] | Alanna Kong (University of Toronto)<br><i>Mentored through University of Toronto Woodsworth Mentorship Program</i>   | 2021–2022 |
| [2] | Devansh Pandey (Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur)<br><i>Mentored through Científico Latino</i><br>Currently a graduate student at University of Texas at Austin  | 2021–2022 |
| [3] | McKenna Molnar (The Ohio State University)<br><i>Mentored through OSU EEOB Graduate Mentoring Program</i>  | 2020–2021 |
| [4] | Shelby Jansens and Kimberly Wiles<br><i>Co-supervised with Dr. Laura Kubatko through Mathematical Biosciences Institute Research Experiences for Undergraduates program</i><br>Project title: Detecting shifts in the evolutionary process in SARS-CoV-2 genomes | 2020      |
| [5] | Tulio Soares and Ellen Southam<br><i>Co-supervised with Dr. Pedro Bernardo at University of Toronto and Royal Ontario Museum</i>   | 2014–2015 |
| [6] | Shreeram Senthivasan<br><i>Co-supervised with Drs. Pedro Bernardo, Santiago Sánchez-Pacheco, and Robert Murphy at University of Toronto and Royal Ontario Museum</i>   | 2014      |

### Miscellaneous

- |     |   |      |
|-----|---|------|
| [1] | Daruma Eco-Farm, Bang Phra, Si Racha District, Chon Buri, Thailand    | 2016 |
| [2] | Cheong-Shim International School English Camp, Ga-Pyeong, South Korea | 2009 |

CONFERENCE AND  
WORKSHOP  
PARTICIPATION    \* *Virtual event*

### Participation with a role

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|-----|--|------|
| [1] | Evolution Meeting, Albuquerque, NM., USA<br><i>SSB Mayr Award Abstract Reviewer &amp; Society of Study of Evolution (SSE) Hamilton Award Judge</i>   | 2023 |
| [2] | ISMB, ISCB, Madison, WI., USA<br><i>Technical Moderator</i>  | 2022 |
| [3] | Evolution Meeting, Cleveland, OH., USA<br><i>SSB Symposium Co-organizer (with Dr. Md Rejuan Haque)</i><br><i>Symposium title: Towards the network of life: Phylogenetic networks as a tool to understand complex evolutionary histories.</i> | 2022 |
| [4] | Evolution Meeting*<br><i>Chair/Moderator in multiple Faux-Live Sessions</i>  | 2021 |

### Participant

- |     |   |            |
|-----|---|------------|
| [1] | Wisconsin Institute for Discovery Symposium,<br>University of Wisconsin-Madison, WI., USA | 2022, 2023 |
| [2] | Midwest Machine Learning Symposium, University of Illinois Chicago, IL., USA              | 2023       |
| [3] | Workshop in Mathematical and Computational Biology*                                       | 2022       |
| [4] | Annual Conference of the Korean Association of Biological Sciences, South Korea*          | 2021       |
| [5] | iEvoBio (Informatics for Phylogenetics, Evolution and Biodiversity), Evolution Meeting*   | 2021       |
| [6] | Workshop in Mathematical and Computational Biology*                                       | 2021       |

[7]	SMRT Leiden 2021 – Young Investigator Virtual Conference*	2021
[8]	Virtual Asilomar 2021, American Society of Naturalists*	2021
[9]	Future of Systematics Workshop at SSB Standalone Meeting, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL., USA	2020
[10]	SSB Standalone Meeting, Gainesville, FL., USA	2020
[11]	Evolution Meeting, Providence, RI., USA	2019
[12]	Midwest Phylogenetics Workshop, Itasca Biological Station, University of Minnesota, MN., USA	2019
[13]	Annual Conference of the Korean Association of Biological Sciences, Yong-In, South Korea	2017
[14]	Society for Conservation Biology (SCB) Asia Section, Workshop on Conservation policy, Bangkok, Thailand	2017
[15]	World Congress of Herpetology, Hangzhou and Tonglu, China	2016
[16]	Phylogenomics Symposium and Software School at SSB Standalone Meeting, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI., USA	2015

#### GRANTS AND AWARDS

All in US Dollars unless stated. †Canadian Dollar; ‡Converted from South Korean Won  
Total amount of funding received up to date ≈US\$50,000

#### Highlights

[1]	The Presidential Fellowship, The Ohio State University [\$36,500]	2022
[2]	SSB Ad Hoc Funds [\$3,000]	2021
[3]	SSE Graduate Research Excellence Grant [\$1,800] <i>R.C. Lewontin Award competition</i>	2020
[4]	University of Toronto Graduate Fellowship	2013–2015
[5]	E.M. Walker Graduate Award in Biodiversity, University of Toronto [\$2,615†]	2014

#### Other grants

[1]	EvoCompGen Best Poster Award, ISMB, ISCB [\$100]	2022
[2]	EEOB Graduate Development Grant, The Ohio State University [Funded]	2022
[3]	EEOB Graduate Evolution & Ecology Student Organization (GEES) Career Development Grant, The Ohio State University [\$200]	2022
[4]	Council of Graduate Students (CGS) Career Development Grant, The Ohio State University [\$350]	2022
[5]	EEOB Darwin Talk Society Membership Grant, The Ohio State University [\$70]	2021
[6]	EEOB Graduate Development Grant, The Ohio State University [Funded]	2021
[7]	Funding for participation in Future of Systematics Workshop, SSB Standalone Meeting (NSF) [\$500]	2020
[8]	Funding for participation in Midwest Phylogenetics Workshop (NSF) [Funded]	2019
[9]	EEOB Graduate Development Grant, The Ohio State University [Funded]	2019
[10]	University of Toronto Undergraduate Bursaries [†≈\$3,000]	2010–2012

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION ACTIVITIES	<b>Participation with a role</b>	
	[1] International Mixer, Evolution Meeting* <i>Moderator</i>	2021
	[2] Decolonizing Evolution Workshop, Evolution Meeting* <i>Moderator</i>	2021
	[3] Strategies for Responding to Harassment and Bullying: Improving Workplace Climate, Evolution Community Resources for Early Career Researchers 2020 (ECR <sup>2</sup> )* <i>Moderator</i>	2020
	[4] Fireside ECR Chat, ECR <sup>2</sup> * <i>Moderator</i>	2020
	<b>Participant</b>	
	[1] International Mixer, Evolution Meeting, Cleveland, OH., USA	2022
	[2] Transformative Justice within Academia: A radical institutional reflection, The Centre for Criminology and Sociological Studies Graduate Student Conference, University of Toronto*	2021
OUTREACH AND SERVICE	[1] Junior science café, Morgridge Institute for Research, WI., USA <i>Scientist</i>	2023
	[2] EEOB 8894: EEOB Graduate seminar, The Ohio State University <i>Invited Panelist</i>	2020
	[3] Museum of Biological Diversity’s open house, The Ohio State University <i>Volunteer</i>	2019
	[4] Department of EEOB, The Ohio State University <i>Graduate studies Committee</i>	2020–2021
	[5] Department of EEOB, The Ohio State University <i>Admissions Committee</i>	2019–2020
	[6] SCB, South Korean Chapter <i>Communication Officer</i>	2016–2017
	[7] Kuang Si Butterfly Park, Ban Thapene, Luang Prabang District, Laos <i>Volunteer Biologist</i>	2016, 2022
PEER-REVIEW ACTIVITIES	<b>Review Editor</b> on the Editorial Board of Evolutionary Systems Biology (specialty section of Frontiers in Systems Biology). <b>Reviewer</b> at Systematic Biology; Molecular Biology and Evolution; Genome Biology and Evolution; Scientific Reports; Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution; Infection, Genetics and Evolution; PLOS Computational Biology; F1000Research; Journal of Mathematical Biology; Bulletin of Mathematical Biology; Ecology and Evolution	
ACTIVE PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS	Society of Systematic Biologists; Society for Study of Evolution; International Society for Computational Biology	
SKILLS	Programming: UNIX, R, Python, Julia, HTML, JavaScript Typesetting: L <sup>A</sup> T <sub>E</sub> X, R Markdown, Jupyter Notebook Languages: English (Fluent), Korean (Native), Japanese (Intermediate)	



## REFERENCES

- [1] Dr. Laura S. Kubatko (Ph.D. advisor)  
Department of Statistics and  
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The Ohio State University  
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lkubatko@stat.osu.edu  
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- [2] Dr. Claudia Solís-Lemus (Postdoc advisor)  
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- [3] Dr. Robert W. Murphy (M.Sc. advisor)  
Reptilia Sanctuary and Education Centre and  
Department of Natural History-Royal Ontario Museum and  
Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology  
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