

# GEORGE PACHECO

## Evolutionary Biologist

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25-03-1989 | Natal, Brazil



*Initially trained as a biologist in the Brazilian Northeast, I have worked on several projects in the vein of animal evolutionary genomics investigating a diverse range of taxa—from tiny Collembolans to culturally evolving killer whales, which has given me a vast experience in the molecular lab and a fair understanding of the rationale behind bioinformatic analyses. During my scientific career, I have developed a profound interest in the genomic and epigenomic architecture of complex traits. Ultimately, I have a sound interest in the molecular mechanisms implicated in the emergence and maintenance of new and adaptive cognitive traits.*

## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

### Postdoc Researcher | [Technical University of Denmark](#)

Mar 2021 — Present • Denmark

**Advisors:** [Dr. Jakob Hansen](#) & [Dr. Dorte Bekkevold](#)

**Location:** [Section for Marine Living Resources](#) | [National Institute of Aquatic Resources](#)

### Postdoc Researcher | [University of Copenhagen](#)

Jan 2020 — Jun 2020 • Denmark

**Advisor:** [Prof. Thomas Gilbert](#)

**Location:** [Section for Evolutionary Genomics](#) | [GLOBE Institute](#)

## ACADEMIC EDUCATION

### PhD in Evolutionary Genomics | [University of Copenhagen](#)

Nov 2014 — Apr 2019 • Denmark

**Thesis:** Flying Rats Shall no Longer Be: A Population Genomic Analysis of Fancy and Feral Pigeons

**Advisor:** [Prof. Thomas Gilbert](#)

**Co-Advisor:** [Dr. Filipe Vieira](#)

**Location:** [Centre for GeoGenetics](#) | [Natural History Museum of Denmark](#)

### MSc in Biology | [University of Copenhagen](#)

Feb 2012 — Aug 2014 • Denmark

**Thesis:** Insights into the Feral Pigeon Global Community Gained From Population Genomics

**Advisor:** [Prof. Thomas Gilbert](#)

**Location:** [Centre for GeoGenetics](#) | [Natural History Museum of Denmark](#)

### Full Licensing & BSc in Biological Sciences | [Federal University of Rio Grande do Norte](#)

Aug 2006 — Jul 2011 • Brazil

**Thesis:** Cytogenetics Characterisation of the Species *Cichlasoma orientale* (Teleostei: Cichlidae: Cichlinae)

**Advisor:** [Prof. Wagner Molina](#)

**Location:** [Laboratório de Genética de Recursos Marinhos](#) | [Departamento de Biologia Celular e Genética](#)

## EXTRA LAB EXPERIENCE

### Lab Assistant | [University of Copenhagen](#) (Remunerated)

1 Aug 2013 — June 2014

**Employer:** [Prof. Thomas Gilbert](#)

**Location:** [Section for Evolutionary Genomics](#) | [Natural History Museum of Denmark](#)

### Lab Intern | [Federal University of Rio Grande do Norte](#) (Volunteer)

1 Aug 2007 — 1 Aug 2008

**Advisor:** [Prof. Lucymara Fassarella Agnez-Lima](#)

**Location:** [Laboratory of Molecular Biology and Genomics](#)

## RELEVANT COURSES

### Supervising BSc & MSc Students | 1 ECTS

Dec 2015 | Denmark

### University Pedagogy Introduction | 1 ECTS

Oct 2015 | Denmark

### Workshop on Genomics | 8 ECTS

Jan 2015 | Czech Republic

### Workshop on Molecular Evolution | 8 ECTS

Feb 2015 | Czech Republic

## ASSOCIATIONS

### Society for the Study of Evolution

Apr 2021 — Present

### Danish Society for Neuroscience

Jan 2018 — Present

### European Ornithologists' Union

Jan 2018 — Present

## LANGUAGES

Portuguese	● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●
English	● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●
Spanish	● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●
Danish	● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●
Russian	● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●

## MY NUMBERS

40+ International Collaborators	18+ Involved in Projects	6+ Coffees per Day
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GRANTS

**EMBO Short-Term Fellowship** | 23 Sep – 22 Dec 2019  
*European Molecular Biology Organization • Germany*

**Full PhD Abroad Scholarship** | Nov 2014 – Oct 2018  
*Conselho Nacional de Desenvolvimento Científico e Tecnológico • Brazil*

**Danish Government Scholarship and Tuition Fee Waiver** | Feb 2012 – Jan 2014  
*Ministry of Science, Innovation and Higher Education • Denmark*

**Student Assistant Scholarship** | Mar 2010 – Apr 2011  
*Conselho Nacional de Desenvolvimento Científico e Tecnológico • Brazil*

**Scientific Initiation Scholarship** | Feb 2009 – Jul 2011  
*Conselho Nacional de Desenvolvimento Científico e Tecnológico • Brazil*

RESEARCH VISITS

**Carneiro Lab** | 23 Sep – 22 Dec 2019 • Portugal  
*Research Centre in Biodiversity and Genetic Resources | University of Porto*

**Shapiro Lab** | 20 Apr – 19 May 2015 • USA  
*School of Biological Sciences | The University of Utah*

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

**Supervision of Several Users of the Molecular Labs** | *University of Copenhagen*  
Feb 2014 – Dec 2018 • Denmark  
**Location:** *Section for Evolutionary Genomics | Natural History Museum of Denmark*

**Student Assistant of Entomology** | *Federal University of Rio Grande do Norte*  
Mar 2010 – Apr 2011 • Brazil

**Advisor:** Prof. Ricardo Andreazze  
**Location:** *Laboratório de Entomologia*

SELECTED SCIENTIFIC EXPEDITIONS

**Logistics Activities on the REBIO Atol das Rocas Conservation Unit**  
Nov 2008 | Rio Grande do Norte State • Brazil

**Collection of Avian Samples** | On behalf of the *10KBird Project*  
Feb 2016 | Rukanga Region • Kenya

**Collection of Avian Zooarchaeological Samples**  
Feb 2016 | Negev Desert • Israel

**Collection of Avian Samples**  
Nov 2015 | Tórshavn Region • Faroe Islands

SELECTED SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

**II B10K Project Workshop**  
Feb 2020 | Copenhagen • Denmark

**Genome 10K and Genome Science Conference**  
Aug 2017 | Norwich • England

**I B10K Project Workshop**  
Oct 2016 | Beijing • China

**XV Congress of the European Society for Evolutionary Biology**  
Aug 2015 | Lausanne • Switzerland

**LX Brazilian Congress on Genetics**  
Aug 2014 | Guarujá • Brazil

FAVOURED QUOTATION

“There is grandeur in this view of life, with its several powers, having been originally breathed into a few forms or into one; and that, whilst this planet has gone cycling on according to the fixed law of gravity, from so simple a beginning endless forms most beautiful and most wonderful have been, and are being, evolved.”  
Nov 1859 – Charles Darwin

COMPUTATIONAL SKILLS

**Bash** ● ● ● ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○  
**R** ● ● ● ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○  
**Python** ● ● ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○  
**InDesign** ● ● ● ● ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○  
**Illustrator** ● ● ● ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○  
**Photoshop** ● ● ● ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○

OTHER RELEVANT TRAINING

**Participation in the XXIX Training for the Archipelago of St. Peter and St. Paul**  
Aug 2009 | Naval Base of Natal / Brazil

**PADI Open Water Diver**  
Jul 2008 | Natal / Brazil

RELEVANT VOLUNTEER WORK

**Science Faculty Mentor Programme**  
*University of Copenhagen*  
Aug 2012 – Dec 2017 | Denmark

**March for Science Copenhagen**  
Apr 2017 | Denmark

REFERENCES

**Thomas Gilbert** | Professor  
*University of Copenhagen | Denmark*  
[tgilbert@sund.ku.dk](mailto:tgilbert@sund.ku.dk)  
[+45 23712519](tel:+4523712519)

**Filipe Vieira** | Senior Bioinformatician  
*Rigshospitalet | Denmark*  
[filipe.garrett.vieira@regionh.dk](mailto:filipe.garrett.vieira@regionh.dk)  
[+45 50208262](tel:+4550208262)

**Hein Van Grouw** | Senior Curator  
*Natural History Museum | UK*  
[h.van-grouw@nhm.ac.uk](mailto:h.van-grouw@nhm.ac.uk)  
[+44 7792581455](tel:+447792581455)

HOBBIES



# LIST OF PUBLICATIONS

## Peer-reviewed / In Press

**The Germline Mutational Process in Rhesus Macaque and Its Implications for Phylogenetic Dating** Bergeron L., Besenbacher S., Bakker J., Zheng J., Li P., **Pacheco G.**, Sinding M. S., Gilbert M. T. P., Schierup M. H. & Zhang G. *GigaScience* / Vol. 10, pp. 1–14 • 2021

**ROLE:** I performed crucial lab work for this project, mainly working as the tutor of the leading author of this project ([Dr. Lucie Bergeron](#)) in our labs in Copenhagen, whom I introduced to some of the modern techniques that were used in this study. I also revised and approved the final version of this drafted article.

**Why TRPV6 Currents Are Not Detectable in Native Cells – What Can We Learn from Bats?** Wolske K, Fecher-Trost C., Wesely C., Löhr H., Philipp S., Flockerzi V., **Pacheco G.** & Wissenbach U. *Cell Calcium* / Vol. 92, Article Nr. 102302 • 2020

**ROLE:** I conducted some lab work for this project. I also revised and approved the final version of the drafted article.

**Dense Sampling of Bird Diversity Increases Power of Comparative Genomics** Feng S., Stiller J., Deng Y., Armstrong J., Fang Q., Reeve A. H., Xie D., Chen G., Guo C., Faircloth B. C., Petersen B., Wang Z., Zhou Q., Diekhans M., Chen W., Andreu-Sánchez S., Margaryan A., Howard J. T., **Pacheco G.**, Sinding M. S., Puetz L., Cavill E., Ribeiro Â. M., Fjeldså J., Hosner P. A., Brumfield R. T., Christidis L., Bertelsen M. F., Tietze D. T., Robertson B. C., Song G., Borgia G., Claramunt S., Lovette I. J., Cowen S. J., Njoroge P., Dumbacher J. P., Ryder O. A., Fuchs J., Bunce M., Burt D. W., Cracraft J., Meng G., Hackett S. J., Ryan P. G., Jönsson K. A., Jamieson I. G., da Fonseca R. R., Braun E. L., Houde P., Mirarab S., Suh A., Stervander M., Hansson B., Sigeman H., Ponnikas S., Frandsen P. B., Van der Zwan H., Balakrishnan C. N., Clark A. G., Fitzpatrick J. W., Bowman R., Chen N., Cloutier A., Sackton T. B., Foote D. J., Shakya S. B., Sheldon F. H., Vignal A., Soares A. E. R., Shapiro B., González-Solís J., Ferrer-Obiol J., Rozas J., Riutort M., Tigano A., Friesen V., Dalén L., Urrutia A. O., Székely T., Liu Y., Campana M. G., Corvelob A., Fleischer R. C., Rutherford K. M., Gemmell N. J., Dussex N., Mouritsen H., Thiele N., Delmore K., Liedvogel M., Franke A., Hoepfner M. P., Krone O., Fudickar A. M., Milá B., Ketterson E. D., Fidler A. E., Friis G., Parody-Merino Á. M., Battley P. F., Cox M. P., Lima N. C. B., Prosdociimi F., Parchman T. L., Schlinger B. A., Loiselle B. A., Blake J. G., Lim H. C., Day L. B., Fuxjager M. J., Baldwin M. W., Braun M. J., Wirthlin M., Dikow R. B., Ryder T. B., Camenisch G., Keller L. F., DaCosta J. M., Hauber M. E., Louder M. I. M., Witt C. C., McGuire J. A., Mudge J., Megna L. C., Carling M. D., Wang B., Taylor S. A., Del-Rio G., Aleixo A., Vasconcelos A. T. R., Mello C. V., Weir J. T., Haussler D., Li Q., Yang H., Wang J., Lei F., Rahbek C., Gilbert M. T. P., Gary R. Graves, Jarvis E. D., Paten B. & Zhang G. *Nature* / Vol. 587, pp. 252–257 • 2020

**ROLE:** Acting as the main responsible person for this large-scale genomic project in Copenhagen, I performed a massive amount of lab work for this study. Moreover, I also contributed to the drafting of this article and approved its final version.

**Phylogeny of Neotropical Seirinae (Collembola, Entomobryidae) Based on Mitochondrial Genomes** Nerivania G., **Pacheco G.**, Shanlin L., Cipola N., Berbel-Filho W., Feng Z., Gilbert M. T. P. & Bellini B. *Zoologica Scripta* Issue / 0, pp. 1–11 • 2020

**ROLE:** I was involved in this project since its conception, namely in securing a visiting PhD scholarship to the first author of this study ([Dr. Nerivania Godeiro](#)), who I helped to train in molecular techniques at our labs in Copenhagen. Then, I generated together with Neri part of the data that was used in this project. I also contributed to the article writing process and approved its final version.

**Darwin's Fancy Revised: An Updated Understanding of the Genomic Constitution of Pigeon Breeds** **Pacheco G.**, van Grouw H., Shapiro M. D., Gilbert M. T. P. & Vieira F. G. *Genome Biology and Evolution* / Vol. 12, Issue 3, pp. 136–150 • 2020

**ROLE:** This was one of the main articles that composed my PhD thesis, thus I acted as the leader author of this study from its commencement until its end.

**Evolutionary History, Genomic Adaptation to Toxic Diet and Extinction of the Carolina Parakeet** Gelabert P., Sandoval-Velasco M., Serres A., Renom P., Margaryan A., de-Dios T., Fang Q., Feng S., Mañosa S., **Pacheco G.**, Ferrando-Bernal M., Shi G., Hao F., Chen X., Stiller J., Petersen B., Navarro A., Marquès-Bonet T., Deng Y., Dalén L., Zhang G., Antunes A., Gilbert M. T. P. & Lalueza-Fox C. *Current Biology* / Vol. 30, pp. 1–7 • 2019

**ROLE:** I performed crucial lab work for this project, such as DNA extractions and molecular quality checks. Naturally, I also contributed to the article writing process and approved its final version together with all other authors.

**The Discovery of *Lepidosira* Schött 1925 (Collembola, Entomobryidae) in Neotropical Region and Its Systematic Position Among the Entomobryinae** Nunes R. C., Godeiro, N. N., **Pacheco G.**, Liu S., Gilbert M. T. P., Alvarez-Valin F., Zhang F. & Bellini B. C. *Zoologica Scripta* / Vol. 48, Issue 6, pp. 783-800 • 2019

**ROLE:** This was a side project that resulted from Neri's visit to Copenhagen (see article 2), thus my role was the same here.

**High-coverage Genomes to Elucidate the Evolution of Penguins** Pan H., Cole T. L., Bi X., Fang M., Zhou C., Yang Z., Hart T., Bouzat J. L., Argilla L. S., Bertelsen M. F., Boersma P. D., Bost C., Cherel Y., Dann P., Fiddaman S. R., Howard P., Labuschagne K., Mattern T., Miller G., Parker P., Phillips R. A., Quillfeldt P., Ryan P. G., Taylor H., Thompson D. R., Young M. J., Ellegaard M. R., Gilbert M. T. P., Sinding M. S., **Pacheco G.**, Shepherd L. D., Tennyson A. J. D., Grosser S., Kay E., Nupen L. J., Ellenberg U., Houston D. M., Reeve A. H., Johnson K., Masello J. F., Stracke T., McKinlay B., Zhang D. X. & Zhang G. *GigaScience* Vol. 8, Issue 9, pp. 1-17 • 2019

**ROLE:** I performed crucial lab work for this project, such as sample acquisition, DNA extractions and molecular quality checks. I also contributed to the article writing process and approved its final version together with all other authors.

**Killer Whale Genomes Reveal a Complex History of Recurrent Admixture and Vicariance** Foote A. D., Morin P. A., Martin M. D., Gopalakrishnan S., Louis M., **Pacheco G.**, Robertson K. M., Sinding M.-H. S., Sousa C. S., Amaral A. R., Baird R. W., Baker C. S., Balance L., Barlow J., Brownlow A., Collins T., Constantine R., Dabin W., Rosa L. D., Davison N. J., Durban J. W., Esteban R., Ferguson S. H., Forney K. A., Gerrodette T., Guinet C., Hanson M. B., Hoggard W., Kaschner K., Matthews C. J. D., Pitman R. L., Samarra F. I. P., de Stephanis R., Tavares S., Tixier P., Totterdell J. A., Wade P., M. Gilbert M. T. P., Wolf J. B. W. & Excoffier L. *Molecular Ecology* / Vol. 28, Issue 14, pp. 3427-3444 • 2019

**ROLE:** I performed crucial lab work for this project, such as sample acquisition, DNA extractions and molecular quality checks. I also received the leading author of this project ([Dr. Andrew Foote](#)) at our labs in Copenhagen and introduced him to some of the modern techniques that were used in this study. I also contributed to the article writing process and approved its final version together with all other authors.

**Hologenomic Adaptations Underlying the Evolution of Sanguivory in the Common Vampire Bat** Mendoza M. L. Z., Xiong Z., Escalera-Zamudio M., Runge A. K., Thézé J., Streicker D., Frank H. K., Loza-Rubio E., Liu S., Ryder O. A., Castruita J. A. S., Katzourakis A., **Pacheco G.**, Taboada B., Löber U., Pybus O. G., Li Y., Rojas-Anaya E., Bohmann K., Baez A. C., Arias C. F., Liu S., Greenwood A. D., Bertelsen M. F., White N. E., Bunce M., Zhang G., Sicheritz-Pontén T. & Gilbert, M. T. *Nature Ecology & Evolution* / Vol. 2, pp. 659-668 • 2018

**ROLE:** I performed crucial lab work for this project, such as DNA extractions, molecular quality checks and PCR experiments. I also contributed to the article writing process and helped its main author to finish up its final draft version based on inputs from all other collaborators.

**Genomic Population Structure of Freshwater-resident and Anadromous Ide (*Leuciscus idus*) in North-western Europe** Skovrind M., Olsen M. T., Vieira F. G., **Pacheco G.**, Carl H., Gilbert M. T. & Møller P. R. *Ecology and Evolution* Vol. 6, Issue 4, pp. 1064-1074 • 2016

**ROLE:** I performed crucial lab work for this project, such as DNA extractions and molecular quality checks. But most importantly, I introduced the main author of this study ([Dr. Mikkel Skovrind](#)) to the modern sequencing method that was used in this project. I also contributed to the article writing process and approved its final version.

**Padrões Citogenéticos de Duas Espécies de Ciclídeos de Bacias do Semi-árido do Brasil: *Crenicichla menezesi* e *Cichlasoma orientale*** Molina, W. F., **Pacheco, G. A.** & Berbel Filho, W. M. *Biota Amazônia* • 2014

**ROLE:** I conducted many of the experiments for this project and also wrote an initial drafted article version.

## Submitted / Under Review

### Additive and Non-additive Epigenetic Signatures of Hybridisation Between Fish Species with Different Mating Systems

Berbel-Filho W. M., Tatarenkov A., **Pacheco G.**, Espirito-Santo H. M. V., Lira M. G., de Leaniz C. G., Avise J. C., Lima S. M. Q., Rodríguez-López C. M. & Consuegra S. / Under revision in *Evolution* (**First Round of Revision**).

**ROLE:** I conducted several bioinformatic analyses for this project and also contributed to the discussion of the results and the writing of the drafted article.

### Conservation Genomics of the Endangered Seychelles Magpie Robin (*Copsychus sechellarum*): A Unique Insight into the History of a Precious Endemic Bird

Cavill E., Gopalakrishnan S., Puetz L., Ribeiro Â., Mak S., da Fonseca R., **Pacheco G.**, Dunlop B., Accouche W., Shah N., Zora A., Calabrese L., Genner M., Jones G., Guo C., Zhang G. & Gilbert, M. T. P. / Under revision in *IBIS* (**Second Round of Revision**).

**ROLE:** I performed crucial lab work for this project, such as DNA extractions, molecular quality checks and PCR experiments. I also contributed to the article writing process and helped its main author to finish up its final draft version based on inputs from all other collaborators.

## In Preparation

### Genomic Insights into the Ubiquitous Feral Pigeon's Formation **Pacheco G.**, Vieira F. G., Martin M. D., Olsen M. T., Hulva P., Raso

T. deF., Njoroge P., Salaberria C., López-Rull I., Lalueza-Fox C., Ramírez O., Ávila-Arcos M. C., Escobar P. R., Faria R., Carneiro M., Sotelo G., Danielsen J., Haddad N., Khoury F., Dor R., Halajian A., Arias M. B., Krone O., Auls S., Seneviratne S. S., Mathiaparanam K., Bunce M., Coghlan M. L., Fjeldsø J. & Gilbert M. T. P.

**ROLE:** This was one of the main articles that composed my PhD thesis, thus I acted as the leader author of this study from its commencement until now that we are close to submitting it to publication.

### Genomic Variation Among European Perch *Perca fluviatilis* Driven by Differentiated Habitat and Selection Skovrind M.,

**Pacheco G.**, Olsen M. T., Fietz K., Christensen E. F. A., Kragh M. A., Vieira F. G., Carl H., Gilbert M. T. P. & Møller P. R.

**ROLE:** I conducted several bioinformatic analyses for this project and also contributed to the discussion of the results as well as to the writing of the article.

### Evolutionary Genomics of the Rarest Mammal in the World, the Microendemic *Cavia intermedia* (Caviidae, Mammalia

Escalona M. A. R., de Manuel M., Gopalakrishnan S., **Pacheco G.**, Barreiro F. S., Ciucani M. M., Sinding M.-H. S., Margaryan A., Petersen B., Furnari N., Gava A., Cherem J., Salvador C. H., Dalén L., Gilbert M. T. P. & Bonatto S. L.

**ROLE:** During his visit at our labs in Copenhagen, was responsible to introduce the main author of this study (Dr. Manuel Escalona) to the sequencing techniques used in this project. Thus, together with Manuel, I carried out wet lab work for this project as well as contributed to some of the analyses and rationale applied to this project.

**I am also involved in several other genomic projects – from birds to snakes, which will certainly be published in due time.**