

# Hao Ran LAI

Centre for Integrative Ecology  
School of Biological Sciences  
Te Kura Pūtaiao Koiora  
University of Canterbury  
Christchurch 8140  
New Zealand

Tel: (+64) 27 307 6493  
Email: [hrlai.ecology@gmail.com](mailto:hrlai.ecology@gmail.com)

## Education

- 2015–2018      Ph.D., Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, National University of Singapore. Advisors: Michiel van Breugel & Hugh Tan Tiang Wah. Thesis: *Functional ecology of tropical secondary forests*
- 2009–2012      B.Sc. (Hons.) Ecology, University of Queensland. Advisor: Margaret M. Mayfield. Thesis: *Functional recovery following logging in subtropical forests*

## Employment

- 2019–current    Research Fellow, School of Biological Sciences, University of Canterbury, New Zealand  
— Higher-order species interactions
- 2019              Visiting Research Fellow, Centre for Urban Greenery and Ecology, National Parks Board, Singapore  
— Tree diameter growth in the urban areas of Singapore
- 2018–2019      Research assistant, Department of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore, Singapore  
— Data analysis and plant community survey in the Nee Soon Freshwater Swamp forest, Singapore
- 2015–2018      Teaching assistant, National University of Singapore, Singapore  
— Biostatistics, Ecology, Field Studies, Plant Biology, and Horticulture
- 2015              Biology Olympiad trainer, National Junior College, Singapore
- 2012–2014      Research assistant, Mayfield Plant Ecology Lab, University of Queensland, Australia  
— Survey and analyses of natural plant communities in Queensland subtropical forests and Western Australia grassland
- 2012–2014      Research officer, Centre for Mined Land Rehabilitation, University of Queensland, Australia  
— Map and identify threats of coal mining to an endangered plant species
- 2012–2014      Research assistant, Buckley Ecology Lab, University of Queensland, Australia
- 2012–2014      Course Tutor, University of Queensland, Australia  
— Biostatistics, Ecology, and Plant Biology

## Publications

- Lai, H. R., Chong, K. Y., Yee, A. T. K., Tan, H. T. W., van Breugel, M. (2020). Functional traits that moderate tropical tree recruitment during post-windstorm secondary succession. *Journal of Ecology*.
- Chiam, Z., Song, X. P., Lai, H. R., Tan, H. T. W. (2019). Particulate matter mitigation via plants: Understanding complex relationships with leaf traits. *Science of the Total Environment*, 688, 398–408.
- Yee, A. T. K., Lai, H. R., Chong, K. Y., Neo, L., Koh, C. Y., Tan, S. Y., ... Tan, H. T. W. (2019). Short-term responses in a secondary tropical forest after a severe windstorm event. *Journal of Vegetation Science*, 30, 720–731.
- van Breugel, M., Craven D., Lai, H. R., Baillon M., Turner, B.L., Hall, J.S. (2019). Soil nutrients and dispersal limitation shape compositional variation in secondary tropical forests across multiple scales. *Journal of Ecology*, 107, 566–581. *Special Feature – Ecological succession in a changing world*.
- Wainwright, C. E., HilleRisLambers, J., Lai, H. R., Loy, X., Mayfield, M. M. (2019). Distinct responses of niche and fitness differences to water availability underlie variable coexistence outcomes in semi-arid annual plant communities. *Journal of Ecology*, 107, 293–306.
- Lam, W.N., Lai, H.R., Lee, C., Tan, H.T.W. (2018) Evidence for pitcher trait-mediated coexistence between sympatric *Nepenthes* pitcher plant species across geographical scales. *Plant Ecology and Diversity*, 11(3), 283–294.
- Lai, H.R., Hall, J.S., Batterman, S.A., Turner, B.L., van Breugel, M. (2018). Nitrogen fixer abundance has no effect on biomass recovery during tropical secondary forest succession. *Journal of Ecology*, 106, 1415–1427. *Special Feature – Linking organismal functions, life history strategies and population performance*.
- Bimler, M.D., Stouffer, D.B., Lai, H.R., Mayfield, M.M. (2018). Accurate predictions of coexistence in natural systems require the inclusion of facilitative interactions and environmental dependency. *Journal of Ecology*, 106(5), 1839–1852. *Special Feature – Biotic controls of plant coexistence*.
- Wainwright, C.E., Staples, T.L., Charles, L.S., Flanagan, T.C., Lai, H.R., Loy, X., Reynolds, V.A., Mayfield, M.M. (2018). Links between community ecology theory and ecological restoration are on the rise. *Journal of Applied Ecology*, 55, 570–581.
- Sams, M.A., Lai, H.R., Bonser, S.P., Vesk, P.A., Kooyman, R.M., Metcalfe, D.J., Morgan, J.W., Mayfield, M.M. (2017). Landscape context explains changes in the functional diversity of regenerating forests better than climate or species richness. *Global Ecology and Biogeography*, 26, 1165–1176.
- Lai, H.R., Hall, J.S., Turner, B.L., van Breugel, M. (2017). Liana effects on biomass dynamics strengthen during secondary forest succession. *Ecology*, 98, 1062–1070.
- Lai, H.R., Mayfield, M.M., Gay-des-combes, J.M., Spiegelberger, T., Dwyer, J.M. (2015). Distinct invasion strategies operating within a natural annual plant system. *Ecology Letters*, 18, 336–346.

## Conferences & Presentations

- |      |   |
|------|---|
| 2019 | Centre for Urban Greenery and Ecology, National Parks Board, Singapore.     |
| 2018 | Association of Tropical Biology and Conservation (ATBC). Kuching, Malaysia. |
| 2016 | Conservation Asia. Singapore.   |
| 2015 | 20th Biological Science Graduate Congress. Bangkok, Thailand.               |

## Awards & Scholarships

2019	International Society for Plant Molecular Biology Medal for most outstanding thesis
2019	CUGE Visiting Research Fellowship, National Parks Board Singapore
2017 & 2018	Teaching Assistant Award, National University of Singapore
2016	City Developments Limited (CDL) Urban Ecology and Conservation Scholarship
2013	University Medal, University of Queensland
2011	Summer Research Scholarship, University of Queensland
2010	D.A. Herbert Prize in Botany & F.A Perkins Prize in Entomology, University of Queensland

## Services & Outreach

2020	RMarkdown tutorial, University of Canterbury, New Zealand
2017	Science Research Programme, Hwa Chong Institution, Singapore
2016	Festival of Biodiversity, Singapore Botanic Gardens
2012–2014	Volunteer, National Parks Association of Queensland Inc. (NPAQ)
Ongoing	Reviewer for <i>Journal of Ecology</i> , <i>Ecology</i> , <i>Methods in Ecology and Evolution</i> , <i>Ecological Applications</i> , <i>Biodiversity and Conservation</i> , <i>Biological Invasions</i> , <i>Science of the Total Environment</i>

## Languages & Qualifications

English (professional working proficiency)

Mandarin (mother tongue) and Cantonese (regional dialect)

Malay (national language)

Malaysian and Singaporean driver's licenses

## Other skills

High proficiency:

- R statistical and programming language
- Plant survey and forestry techniques
- L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X and Markdown

General proficiency:

- Plant identification
- Geographic information system
- Weather stations & remote sensing

## Professional references

A/P Daniel B. Stouffer  
Current supervisor  
Associate Professor, University of  
Canterbury, New Zealand  
Tel: (+64) 3 369 2880  
Email: [daniel.stouffer@canterbury.ac.nz](mailto:daniel.stouffer@canterbury.ac.nz)

Dr Michiel van Bruegel  
Former PhD supervisor  
Assistant Professor, Yale–NUS  
College, Singapore  
Tel: (+65) 6601 3705  
Email: [michiел.vanbreugel@yale-nus.edu.sg](mailto:michiел.vanbreugel@yale-nus.edu.sg)

A/P Hugh Tiang Wah Tan  
Former PhD co-supervisor  
Associate Professor, National Uni-  
versity of Singapore  
Tel: (+65) 6516 2708  
Email: [hughtan@nus.edu.sg](mailto:hughtan@nus.edu.sg)