

Justin Ephraim Isip *Curriculum Vitae*

justin.isip.21@ucl.ac.uk • +44 7456005816 • github.com/justin-isip • Twitter: justin_isip
• London • NW6 4PD • UK

Research interests

Biodiversity, conservation, nature based solutions, human-wildlife coexistence, climate change, tropical ecology, extinction science

My background is in taxonomy, systematics, macroecology, macroevolution, tropical fieldwork, and collection based museum research. I have recently started a PhD studentship with the London NERC DTP. Prior to this, I graduated from the MSc in Taxonomy, Biodiversity and Evolution at Imperial College London and The Natural History Museum London with a distinction. Broadly, I am interested in multidisciplinary techniques to protect and preserve the natural world. I wish to pursue an impactful career in research that works towards a future where both nature and humans can thrive together. I have encountered many exciting computational and theoretical challenges during my academic career and I would relish the opportunity to continue developing my quantitative skillset whilst solving real world problems.

Education

- MSc Taxonomy, Biodiversity and Evolution (distinction) ICL & NHM, UK
Imperial College London & The Natural History Museum London Oct '19 – Oct '20
- Rigorous training in advanced methods in taxonomy and systematics, focusing on phylogenetics, molecular systematics, genomics, biodiversity and statistics.
 - MSc Representative: I represented the views of my masters cohort in departmental meetings.
 - Research project: *Comparative analyses of bite-force in lepidosaurs (Reptilia: Lepidosauria)* - Grade: 74%
Skills: *Extracting data from the literature and building large datasets de novo, Proficient in R; R Markdown; tidyverse; ggplot2; version control via git; PGLS models, linear models, L^AT_EX.*
 - Awards: *The Sydney Perry Foundation (£1200), The Coats Foundation (£1091), The Richard Stapley Trust (£1000) and The St. Clement Danes Educational Trust (£650).*
- BSc Zoology (1:1) WHITELANDS COLLEGE, UK
University of Roehampton Sep '16 – May '19
- Research project: *'A new species of dead-leaf toad from the Eastern Arc Mountains of Tanzania?'* Grade: 90%
Skills: *Amphibian systematics, principal component analysis, morphometric and image analyses.*
 - Awards: *Department of Life Sciences Award, Year 2 and Year 3 prize for Zoology (2018 & 2019) for being the student with the highest average grade awarded for both years and the highest dissertation mark overall.*
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Publications

1. **Isip, J.E., Jones, M.E.H & Cooper, N.** Comparative analyses of bite-force in lepidosaurs (Reptilia: Lepidosauria). Submitted to *Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences*.
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Relevant Work Experience

- Zoology Volunteer LONDON, UK
Natural History Museum Nov '17 – Oct '20
- Gained skills in curation and collection management of herpetological specimens.
 - Trained in data management and curation, museum lab protocol and handling of wet specimens.
 - Broadened insight into the utility of museum collections for research.
 - Previous projects include: the digitisation of the amphibian true toad family (*Bufonidae*, > 600 spp.)
- Forestry Scientist IWOKRAMA, GUYANA
Operation Wallacea Jun – Aug '17, '18, '19
- In 2017, I crowdfunded over £2,500 and was awarded a grant from the Jack Petchey Foundation to volunteer as a research assistant.
 - In 2018 & 2019, I led forestry surveys in the Iwokrama and Surama Forests.
 - Surveys in pristine rainforest, ecotourism and reduced impact logging sites.
 - Teaching tropical ecology/field skills to 40 - 50 research assistants per field season.

Volunteer Aquarist

London Zoo Aquarium

LONDON, UK

Mar '18 – Jun '18

- Trained in fish husbandry, responsible for freshwater section.
- Tasks include: preparing food, feeding animals and cleaning enclosures.
- Projects include: target training of Arapaima (*Arapaima gigas*) for relocation to a new site and monitoring the health of multiple seahorse populations via regular nutrient and chemical dosing of enclosures and recording of abiotic factors.

Research Assistant

Biosciences Field Course, University of Roehampton

PEMBROKSHIRE, WALES

May '17 – June '17

- 2nd year ecology field course, centred around different UK ecosystems, e.g. rivers and streams, sand dunes, woodlands, heathlands and rocky shores.
- Developed field skills in habitat surveying, field sampling, survey techniques and animal behaviour.

Skills

Technical skills: *Computational skills:* R, R Markdown, UNIX/Linux, git. Proficient in using the tidyverse packages for data cleaning/tidying. Proficient in using ggplot2 for data visualisation. Phylogenetic Generalised Least Squares (PGLS) analyses using a variety of packages such as geiger, phytools, ape, caper for manipulating data and phylogenies in R. *Statistics:* Summary statistics, linear models, maximum likelihood, bayesian statistics.

Field skills: *Forestry:* Identification of neotropical tree/plant species, inventory plots, measurement of functional traits. *Entomology:* Butterfly trapping, light trapping, malaise trapping, pitfall trapping and kick sampling. *Herpetology:* Venomous/non-venomous snake handling, visual encounter surveys. *Ornithology:* Mist netting (50+ birds ringed in the neotropics), point counts. *Mammalogy:* Bat mist netting (200+ extracted), camera trapping, point counts.

Other awards: OCN Level 1 Youth Leadership, OCN Level 1 Media and Journalism, John Muir Discovery Award all received whilst interning with the London Wildlife Trust.

Languages: English (*mother tongue*), Tagalog (*beginner*), Spanish (*beginner*) and German (*beginner*).

Other Work Experience

Deputy Site Manager

LONDON, UK

NHS Test and Trace

Oct '20 – Aug '21

- Directly responsible for the management of a COVID-19 testing centre with the NHS Test & Trace.
- Managed a team of 50+ staff, ensuring all safety regulations and tests procedures are adhered to.
- In charge of all activities and outputs of the testing site, such as the supply/administration of test kits, PPE stock etc.

President's Ambassador

LONDON, UK

Imperial College London

Oct '19 – Mar '20

- Represented ICL at open days, led official campus tours, give student talks at schools and on campus, meet and greet with international visitors and ushering at Imperial events.

Student Telethon Fundraiser

LONDON, UK

Imperial College London

Oct '19 – Dec '19

- Trained in conversational skills to seek essential philanthropic support from Imperial alumni.
- Successfully obtained over £1,000 during the 6 week campaign.

Martial Arts Instructor

LONDON, UK

Wing Tsun London

May '17 – Sep '19

- Trained Wing Tsun Kung-Fu for 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ years, teaching adult and kids classes.
- Organised two women's self-defence courses, raising £1,500 for Action Aid on International Women's Day.
- Organised multiple training demonstrations in public to promote Wing Tsun.
- Trained 86 hours in a single month as part of a school challenge.

Student Rep/Fundraiser

LONDON, UK

University of Roehampton

Sep '16 – Sep '18

- Promoted the expeditions offered by Operation Wallacea to Roehampton students.
 - Gave a presentation to prospective students on my field experiences with Operation Wallacea.
 - Point of contact for students to help with fundraising activities and field work preparation.
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Interests

Non-exhaustive and in no particular order: Philosophy, meditation, yoga, wildlife photography, bird-watching, martial arts, cooking, camping, music, travelling, languages, \LaTeX , **R**, ggplot2 and the tidyverse.
