
Laís Lautenschlager Rodrigues

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Languages Proficiency:

Portuguese – Fluent, Native

English – Fluent

Spanish - Beginner

- EDUCATION

University of Miami (UM), Department of Biology, Miami, FL

Fall 2020 - Current

Ph.D. Candidate in Biology - Dr. **Kenneth Feeley** (PI)

Project: “*Dietary Ecological Functioning of a Large Herbivore in a Tropical Forest*”

Aldridge Graduate Scholarship in Tropical Biology fellowship, Fall 2021 – Spring 2023

UMIA/LAS Distinguished Graduate Fellowship, Fall 2023 – Spring 2024

São Paulo State University (UNESP), Department of Ecology, Rio Claro, SP, Brazil

2017-2019

Masters in Science in Ecology and Biodiversity

Project: “*Effects of Domestic Livestock and Landscape on the Diversity of Mammals in the Atlantic Forest Remnants*”

CAPES (Coordination for the Improvement of Higher Education Personnel) fellowship recipient

São Paulo State University (UNESP), Department of Ecology, Rio Claro, SP, Brazil

2012-2016

Bachelor in Ecology

Project: “*Frugivory and Seed Dispersal by the Red-footed Tortoise (*Chelonoidis carbonaria*)*”

CNPQ (National Council for Scientific and Technological Development) fellowship recipient

- COMPLEMENTARY EDUCATION

R-Ladies Belo Horizonte – Online Course, Belo Horizonte, Brazil

2022

Short-term course in *Data Analysis with Tidyverse – R software*

Florestal Package – Online Course, São Paulo, Brazil

2021

Short-term course in *Introduction of Geospatial Data in R software*

Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS), Porto Alegre, RS, Brazil

2019

Short-term course in *Introduction to Hierarchical Models in Ecology*

São Paulo State University (UNESP), Rio Claro, São Paulo, Brazil

2019

Short-term course in *Introduction of R: data management, visualization, and analysis*

Geoprocessing without borders, Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil

2017

Short-term course about *Geographic information systems in the analysis of environmental risks using ArcGIS software*

São Paulo State University (UNESP), Rio Claro, São Paulo, Brazil

2016

Short-term course in *Scientific Photography*

São Paulo State University (UNESP) , Rio Claro, São Paulo, Brazil Short-term course in <i>Ornithology Studies</i>	2015
São Paulo State University (UNESP) , Rio Claro, São Paulo, Brazil Short-term course in <i>Herpetology Studies</i>	2014
São Paulo State University (UNESP) , Rio Claro, São Paulo, Brazil Short-term course in <i>Ecology and Seed Dispersal of Bats</i>	2014
São Paulo State University (UNESP) , Rio Claro, São Paulo, Brazil Short-term course in <i>Introduction to Bird Ecology</i>	2012

- RESEARCH

- **University of Miami**, Department of Biology, Miami, FL, USA **2020 ~ 2025**

Ph.D. Candidate (Biology), advisor: Dr. **Kenneth Feeley** (*former advisor: Dr. Mauro Galetti 2020 – 2022*)

Proposed project regarding the diet and ecological functions of a large herbivore in a Tropical Forest

- Fieldwork, camera trapping, collecting fecal and soil samples, next-generation molecular techniques, biogeochemistry, and greenhouse experiments.

(Accomplished the Aldridge Graduate Scholarship in Tropical Biology fellowship; Fall 2021 – Spring 2023)

(Accomplished the UMIA/LAS Distinguished Graduate Fellowship; Fall 2023 – Spring 2024)

- **São Paulo State University (UNESP)**, Department of Ecology, Rio Claro, SP, Brazil **2017-2019**

Master's in Science (Ecology and Biodiversity), advisor: Dr. **Mauro Galetti**

- Master's thesis: "Effects of Domestic Livestock and Landscape on the Diversity of Mammals in the Atlantic Forest Remnants"
- Investigated how livestock presence and pasture landscapes affect medium and large-sized mammal communities through the Atlantic Forest fragments
- Fieldwork, installation of camera traps, species identification, data analysis

(Accomplished a CAPES (Coordination for the Improvement of Higher Education Personnel) fellowship – total amount R\$ 36.000,00)

- **São Paulo State University (UNESP)**, Department of Ecology, Rio Claro, SP, Brazil **2014-2016**

Bachelor in Science (Ecology), advisor: Dr. **Mauro Galetti**

- Bachelors' thesis: "Frugivory and Seed Dispersal by the Red-footed tortoise (*Chelonoidis carbonaria*)"
- Captivity experiments using living tortoises to test their seed dispersal capabilities.
- Tested maximum seed width this species can swallow, gut passage time, and germination rates.

(Accomplished a CNPQ (National Council for Scientific and Technological Development) fellowship – total amount R\$ 4.800,00)

- PUBLICATIONS

- Kim, S., **Lautenschlager, L.**, Tarazona-Tubens, F. L., Abels, J., Lloret, M., Park, T., Malcolm-Parker, A., Galetti, M., Searcy, C. (2024). Resurrecting plant–animal interactions in the Caribbean can benefit large-fruited plants. *Restoration Ecology*, e14233. [10.1111/rec.14233](https://doi.org/10.1111/rec.14233).
- Gonçalves, F., Farooq, H., Harfoot, M., Pires, M. M., Villar, N., Sales, L., Carvalho, C., Bello, C., Emer, C., Bovendorp, R. S., Mendes, C., Beca, G., **Lautenschlager, L.**, Souza, Y., Pedrosa, F., ... Galetti, M. (2024). A global map of species at risk of extinction due to natural hazards. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 121(26), e2321068121. [10.1073/pnas.2321068121](https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2321068121).
- Lautenschlager, L.**, Souza, Y., Villar, N., Galetti, M., & Feeley, K. J. (2024). Communal tapir latrines are foraging sites for tropical forest vertebrates. *Global Ecology and Conservation*, e02950. [10.1016/j.gecco.2024.e02950](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gecco.2024.e02950).
- Lautenschlager, L.** & Feeley, K. (2024). Poop is cool! Animal latrines help animals and plants. *Frontiers for Young Minds journal*. 12, 1284583. [10.3389/frym.2024.1284583](https://doi.org/10.3389/frym.2024.1284583).
- Franceschi, I. C., da Paixão Dornas, R. A., Lermen, I. S., Coelho, A. V. P., Boas, A. H. V., Chiarello, A. G., et al. (2024). Camera trap surveys of Atlantic Forest mammals: A data set for analyses considering imperfect detection (2004-2020). *Ecology*, e4298. [10.1002/ecy.4298](https://doi.org/10.1002/ecy.4298)
- Lautenschlager, L.**, Souza, Y., & Galetti, M. (2022). Frugivory and seed dispersal by the Red-footed Tortoise *Chelonoidis carbonaria*. *Acta Oecologica*, 116, 103837. [10.1016/j.actao.2022.103837](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.actao.2022.103837).
- Galetti, M., Gonçalves, F., Villar, N., Zipparro, V. B., Paz, C., Mendes, C., **Lautenschlager, L.**, ... Bovendorp, R. S. (2021). Causes and consequences of large-scale defaunation in the Atlantic Forest. In M. C. M. Marques & C. E. V. Grelle (Eds.), *The Atlantic Forest. History, biodiversity, threats and opportunities of the mega-diverse forest* (pp. 297-324). [10.1007/978-3-030-55322-7_14](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-55322-7_14).
- Mendes, C. P., Carreira, D., Pedrosa, F., Beca, G., **Lautenschlager, L.**, Akkawi, P., ... & Galetti, M. (2020). Landscape of human fear in Neotropical rainforest mammals. *Biological Conservation*, 241, 108257. [10.1016/j.biocon.2019.108257](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.biocon.2019.108257).
- Nagy-Reis, M., Oshima, J. E. D. F., Kanda, C. Z., Palmeira, F. B. L., de Melo, F. R., Morato, R. G., ... & Lopes, C. M. (2020). NEOTROPICAL CARNIVORES: a data set on carnivore distribution in the Neotropics. *Ecology*, 101(11), e03128. [10.1002/ecy.3128](https://doi.org/10.1002/ecy.3128).
- Souza, Y., Gonçalves, F., **Lautenschlager, L.**, Akkawi, P., Mendes, C., Carvalho, M. M., ... & Galetti, M. (2019). ATLANTIC MAMMALS: a data set of assemblages of medium-and large-sized mammals of the Atlantic Forest of South America. *Ecology*, 100(10), e02785. [10.1002/ecy.2785](https://doi.org/10.1002/ecy.2785).
- Sobral-Souza, T., **Lautenschlager, L.**, Morcatty, T. Q., Bello, C., Hansen, D., & Galetti, M. (2017). Rewilding defaunated Atlantic Forests with tortoises to restore lost seed dispersal functions. *Perspectives in ecology and conservation*, 15(4), 300-307. [10.1016/j.pecon.2017.08.005](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pecon.2017.08.005).

In preparation –

- Fortier, R. P., Kullberg, A. T., Aragón, L., Bernal-Escobar, M., Hurtado, C. P., **Lautenschlager, L.**, Contreras, M. P., & Feeley, K. J. (2024). Plant Diversity and Endemism of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, Colombia, with Floristic Comparisons to Surrounding Mountains. *Annals of the Missouri Botanic Garden (In review)*.

Regolin, A., **Lautenschlager, L.**, et al. (2024). Habitat fragmentation explains the extinction risk of the largest herbivore in the Neotropical forests. (*In prep.*)

- EXPERIENCES

- **Fieldwork Assistant**

Michaela Peterson (Ph.D., Vanderbilt University, US) **2019**

- Monitoring white-lipped peccaries with camera trapping and following tracks in Brazil.

Vincent Fehr (Ph.D., Aarhus University, Denmark) **2018**

- Studying exotic palms and their potential for invasion in the Atlantic Forest in Brazil.

Thomas Arkwright (MSc., University of Copenhagen, Denmark) **2017**

- Studying the maned-wolf population in a savanna (protected area) in Brazil.

- **Teaching Experiences**

Course: *Introduction to Latin American and Caribbean Studies* **Fall 2023**

Instructor Dr. John Twichell

Teaching Assistant (TA) Fellow from the UMIA - Institute for Advanced Study of the Americas
University of Miami, Coral Gables, Florida, USA

Course: *Fieldwork Ecology* **2015, 2018**

Instructor Dr. Mauro Galetti (Teacher Assistant)

São Paulo State University, campus Rio Claro, São Paulo, Brazil

- **Events - Organization Committee**

22nd Tri-University Latin America and Caribbean Studies Graduate Student Conference **2024**
(UM, FIU, FAU) – University of Miami, Coral Gables, Florida, USA

10th Brazilian Congress of Mastozoology, Águas de Lindóia, SP, Brazil **2019**

3rd Workshop of Ecosystem Services, São Paulo State University, Rio Claro, SP, Brazil **2015**

- **Presentation in Events**

8th Frugivores & Seed Dispersal Symposium (FSD), Ilhéus, Bahia, Brazil **Aug 2024**

Oral presentation: “Communal tapir latrines are foraging sites for tropical forest vertebrates”

8th Frugivores & Seed Dispersal Symposium (FSD), Ilhéus, Bahia, Brazil **Aug 2024**

Oral presentation: “Unveiling the dietary selection of the Lowland tapir (*Tapirus terrestris*) in a tropical forest”

Symposia: “Harnessing nucleic acids to unveil the ecology and evolution of frugivory and seed dispersal”

15th Annual Graduate Student Symposium, Department of Biology, University of Miami **Jan 2024**

Oral presentation: “Communal tapir latrines are foraging sites for tropical forest vertebrates” (*winner*)

13th International Mammalogical Congress (IMC-13), Anchorage, Alaska, USA **Jul 2023**

Oral presentation: “Lowland Tapir latrines as an alternative food source for vertebrates in the Atlantic Forest”

14th Annual Graduate Student Symposium, Department of Biology, University of Miami **Jan 2023**
Poster presentation: “Lowland Tapir latrines as an alternative food source for vertebrates in the Atlantic Forest”

Friday Seminar – Biology Graduate Program, Department of Biology, University of Miami
Oral presentation: “Dietary ecological functioning of ungulates in a tropical forest” **Nov 2021**

12th Annual Graduate Student Symposium, Department of Biology, University of Miami **Jan 2021**
Poster presentation: “Biogeography of mutualistic interactions in island ecosystems”

10th Brazilian Congress of Mastozoology, Águas de Lindóia, SP, Brazil **2019**
Oral presentation: “Effects of domestic megafauna and landscape on the diversity of mammals in the Atlantic Forest remnants”

6th Theoretical Ecology Symposium, University of Campinas (UNICAMP), Campinas, SP, Brazil **2018**
Poster presentation: “Frugivory and Seed Dispersal by the Red-footed Tortoise (*Chelonoidis carbonaria*)”

- **Communities’ Engagement**

BioReach – Department of Biology Outreach program – University of Miami **2023**
 Volunteer to teach students about biological concepts in the Ponce de León Middle School, Miami, FL, USA

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – United Nations, Rio Claro, SP, Brazil **2019**
 Volunteer during the event “Knowing the 17 Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations”

Academic Preparation Course– ATHO, São Paulo State University, Rio Claro, SP, Brazil **2011- 2015**
 Integrating deprived communities in a preparation course (ATHO) at the São Paulo State University focusing on students (young adults and adults) being able to study in Brazilian public universities by teaching English classes and also collaborating as class monitor, organizing educational events, and being a member of the organizing committee

CNPq (National Council for Scientific and Technological Development) undergrad student fellowship recipient.

- **Non-Governmental Organization Internship**

Karumbé – Centro de Tortugas Marinas, La Coronilla, Uruguay **2014**
 The NGO Karumbé works in the research and conservation of sea turtles in the region of the protected marine area of Cerro Verde, Uruguay. I collaborated with many activities, such as monitoring beaches, sighting animals at sea, capturing live animals, and marking and rehabilitating marine animals and their subsequent release.

- EXTERNAL FUNDINGS

Grants and Awards

Dean's Summer Research Fellowship – University of Miami
 Title: “Nutrient Fertilization and Plant Recruitment by the Lowland tapir (*Tapirus terrestris*)
 Period: **Summer 2024**
 Amount: USD 5,000 Status: **Funded**

Summer Doctoral Research Grant – Graduate School – University of Miami

Title: “Nutrient Fertilization and Plant Recruitment by the Lowland tapir (*T. terrestris*) in a Tropical Forest”

Period: **Summer 2024**

Amount: USD 5,000

Status: **Funded**

Kushlan Graduate Research Support Award – Department of Biology, University of Miami

Title: “Nutrient fertilization and plant recruitment by the Lowland tapir (*Tapirus terrestris*)”

Period: **Summer 2024**

Amount: USD 800.00

Status: **Funded**

Lewis and Clark Fund for Exploration and Field Research

Title: “*Dietary Ecological Functioning of Large Mammalian Herbivores in a Tropical Forest*”

Period: **Summer 2023**

Amount: USD 4,900

Status: **Funded**

Latin American Student Field Research Award (American Society of Mammalogists – ASM)

Title: “*Dietary Ecological Functioning of Large Mammalian Herbivores in a Tropical Forest*”

Period: **Summer 2023**

Amount: USD 1,500

Status: **Funded**

Kushlan Graduate Research Support Award – Department of Biology, University of Miami

Title: “Comparing Dietary Ecological Functions of Herbivores in a Tropical Forest”

Period: **Summer 2023**

Amount: USD 500.00

Status: **Funded**

CNPq - Brazilian National Council for Scientific and Technological Development (process #405839/2021-9)

Title: “*Defaunation Effects on the Ecological Functions of Plant Communities in Tropical Forests*”

PI: Dr. Mauro Galetti

Period: **2021 – 2022**

Amount: R\$ 82,500 (USD 16,500 approx.)

Status: **Funded**

Fellowships (Ph.D. – University of Miami)

UMIA/LAS Distinguished Graduate Fellows Program

Title: “Dietary Ecological Functioning of Large Mammalian Herbivores in Tropical Forests”

PI: Dr. Kenneth Feeley

Period: **Academic Year 2023 – 2024**

Amount: USD 30,000

Aldridge Graduate Scholarship in Tropical Biology

Title: “Dietary Ecological Functioning of Large Mammalian Herbivores in Tropical Forests”

PI: Dr. Mauro Galetti (Fall 2020 - Spring 2022)

Period: **Fall 2021 – Spring 2023**

Amount: USD 24,950