
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*”

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

Master of Science (MS) degree in Ecology and Biodiversity

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

São Paulo State University (UNESP), Department of Ecology, Rio Claro, SP, Brazil **2012-2016**

Bachelor of Science (BS) degree in Ecology

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

- COMPLEMENTARY EDUCATION

R-Ladies Belo Horizonte – Online Course, Belo Horizonte, MG, 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, SP, 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 *GIS in the analysis of environmental risks using ArcGIS software*

São Paulo State University (UNESP), Rio Claro, SP, Brazil **2016**

Short-term course in *Scientific Photography*

São Paulo State University (UNESP), Rio Claro, SP, Brazil **2015**

Short-term course in *Ornithology Studies*

São Paulo State University (UNESP), Rio Claro, SP, Brazil **2014**

Short-term course in *Herpetology Studies*

São Paulo State University (UNESP), Rio Claro, SP, Brazil **2014**

Short-term course in *Ecology and Seed Dispersal of Bats*

São Paulo State University (UNESP), Rio Claro, SP, Brazil **2012**

Short-term course in *Introduction to Bird Ecology*

- 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 of Science (MS) degree in Ecology and Biodiversity, advisor: Dr. **Mauro Galetti**

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

Investigated how the livestock presence and pasture landscapes affect medium and large-sized mammal communities through the Atlantic Forest fragments in Brazil

Fieldwork, installation of camera traps, species identification, data analysis

(Accomplished the *CAPES (Coordination for the Improvement of Higher Education Personnel) Fellowship*)

- **São Paulo State University (UNESP)**, Department of Ecology, Rio Claro, SP, Brazil **2012-2016**

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

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 consumption, gut retention time, and germination rates.

(Accomplished the *CNPQ (National Council for Scientific and Technological Development) Fellowship*)

- PUBLICATIONS

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* (accepted for publication in October 2024).

Kullberg, A. T., Aragón, L., Bernal-Escobar, M., Fortier, R., **Lautenschlager, L.**, Ballantyne, J., & Feeley, K. J. (2024). Rising temperatures will make Miami’s street life even more exotic. *Urban Forestry & Urban Greening*, 128502. [10.1016/j.ufug.2024.128502](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ufug.2024.128502)

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).

- 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: <i>Evolution and Biodiversity</i> | Spring 2025 |
| Instructor Dr. Kenneth J. Feeley | |
| Teaching Assistant (TA) Fellow from the Department of Biology | |
| University of Miami, Coral Gables, Florida, USA | |

Course: <i>General Biology Laboratory</i> Instructor Dr. Dana Krempels Teaching Assistant (TA) Fellow from the Department of Biology University of Miami, Coral Gables, Florida, USA	Fall 2024
Course: <i>Ecology</i> Instructor Dr. Michelle E. Afkhami Teaching Assistant (TA) Fellow from the Department of Biology University of Miami, Coral Gables, Florida, USA	Fall 2024
Course: <i>Introduction to Latin American and Caribbean Studies</i> 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	Fall 2023
Course: <i>Fieldwork Ecology</i> Instructor Dr. Mauro Galetti Teaching Assistant (TA) from the Department of Ecology and Biodiversity São Paulo State University, campus Rio Claro, São Paulo, Brazil	2015, 2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Events - Organization Committee 	
22 nd Tri-University Latin America and Caribbean Studies Graduate Student Conference (UM, FIU, FAU) – University of Miami, Coral Gables, Florida, USA	2024
10 th Brazilian Congress of Mastozoology, Águas de Lindóia, SP, Brazil	2019
3 rd Workshop of Ecosystem Services, São Paulo State University, Rio Claro, SP, Brazil	2015
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation in Events 	
6 th Annual Distinguished Fellows Colloquium, Institute for Advanced Study of the Americas (UMIA) <i>Oral presentation:</i> “Dietary Ecological Roles of Lowland Tapirs in a Tropical Forest”	Oct 2024
8 th Frugivores & Seed Dispersal Symposium (FSD), Ilhéus, Bahia, Brazil <i>Oral presentation:</i> “Communal tapir latrines are foraging sites for tropical forest vertebrates”	Aug 2024
8 th Frugivores & Seed Dispersal Symposium (FSD), Ilhéus, Bahia, Brazil <i>Oral presentation:</i> “Unveiling the dietary selection of the Lowland tapir (<i>Tapirus terrestris</i>) in a tropical forest” <i>Symposia:</i> “Harnessing nucleic acids to unveil the ecology and evolution of frugivory and seed dispersal”	Aug 2024
15 th Annual Graduate Student Symposium, Department of Biology, University of Miami <i>Oral presentation:</i> “Communal tapir latrines are foraging sites for tropical forest vertebrates” (<i>winner</i>)	Jan 2024
13 th International Mammalogical Congress (IMC-13), Anchorage, Alaska, USA <i>Oral presentation:</i> “Lowland Tapir latrines as an alternative food source for vertebrates in the Atlantic Forest”	Jul 2023
14 th Annual Graduate Student Symposium, Department of Biology, University of Miami <i>Poster presentation:</i> “Lowland Tapir latrines as an alternative food source for vertebrates in the Atlantic Forest”	Jan 2023
Friday Seminar – Biology Graduate Program, Department of Biology, University of Miami <i>Oral presentation:</i> “Dietary ecological functioning of ungulates in a tropical forest”	Nov 2021

Poster presentation: “Biogeography of mutualistic interactions in island ecosystems”

Oral presentation: “Effects of domestic megafauna and landscape on the diversity of mammals in the Atlantic Forest remnants”

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

- **Community Outreach Initiatives**

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

Contributing to the integration of underprivileged communities through a preparatory course (“ATHO”) at São Paulo State University, focusing on equipping young adults and adults for admission to Brazilian public universities. Responsibilities included teaching English classes, organizing educational events, and actively participating as a member of the organizing committee.

(Accomplished the *CNPQ (National Council for Scientific and Technological Development)* undergraduate student fellowship)

- **Non-Governmental Organization Internship**

Karumbé – Centro de Tortugas Marinas, La Coronilla, Uruguay

2014

Collaborated with the NGO “Karumbé” in sea turtle research and conservation within Cerro Verde's protected marine area, Uruguay. Activities included beach monitoring, animal sightings, capturing, tagging, rehabilitating marine animals, and overseeing their 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