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EDUCATION

2019 M.Sc. Systematics, Animal Taxonomy and Biodiversity, **University of São Paulo**, Brazil (USP)

Exchange period: **National Museum of Natural History - Smithsonian**, U.S.A (Aug 18 – Nov 18)

Thesis: Review of the Genus *Narcissia* Gray, 1840 (Echinodermata, Asteroidea): from Morphology to Taxonomy

Supervisor: Marcos Tavares, Ph.D.

2016 B.Sc. and Teacher Licensure Biology, **Bahia Federal University**, Brazil (UFBA)

Exchange period: **Fairleigh Dickinson University**, U.S.A (Aug 14 – Dec 15)

Honors Thesis: Taxonomic Study of Sea Star Species (Echinodermata: Asteroidea) from Bahia, Brazil

Supervisor: Carla Menegola, Ph.D.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Invertebrate zoology, especially of echinoderms; morphological taxonomy; phylogenetic systematics; marine biogeography.

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

1. **Cunha, R.** & Tavares, M. (2021) A review of the genus *Narcissia* Gray, 1840 (Echinodermata: Asteroidea: Ophidiasteridae). *Journal of the Marine Biological Association*, 1–23. (showcased on cover) [Here](#)
2. **Cunha, R.**; Martins, L.; Menegola, C. & Souto, C. (2021) Taxonomy of the sea stars (Echinodermata: Asteroidea) from the Bahia State, including ontogenetic variations and an illustrated key to the Brazilian species. *Zootaxa*, 4955 (1): 1–78. [Here](#)
3. **Cunha, R.**; Tavares, M. & Braga, J. (2020) Shallow-water Asteroidea (Echinodermata) of the remote oceanic archipelago Trindade and Martin Vaz, southeastern Atlantic, with taxonomic and zoogeographical notes. *Zootaxa*, 4742 (1): 31–56. [Here](#)

AWARDS, GRANTS, SCHOLARSHIPS

Internal Grants and Scholarships

2018 FAPESP Research Funds for graduate students, MZUSP, **\$610**

2017 Graduate Division, Conference Travel Grants, MZUSP, **\$380**

Honors and Awards

2018 **Research Fellowship Abroad**, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution. Three-month scholarship awarded by the Research Support Foundation of the São Paulo State (FAPESP), **\$4,380**

2017 **First place in the selection process** for the Master Program in Systematics, Animal Taxonomy and Biodiversity, University of São Paulo. Two-year scholarship awarded by the Research Support Foundation of the São Paulo State (FAPESP), **\$12,000**

2014 **Exchange Program**, Brazilian Scientific Mobility Program, Science Without Borders. Sixteen-months scholarship awarded by the Ministry of Education (MEC), **\$16,220**

2009 **Research Internship**, Four-year internship awarded by the Bahia Federal University, **\$2,500**

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor of Record

- 2014 High School Teacher, State Center for Vocational Education in Health and Management.
Courses: Environmental Control, Environmental Impact Management – 1 semester

Guest Lectures

- 2021 “Unraveling the beauty of the sea stars: new tools and discoveries”, for undergraduate/graduate students, Federal University of São Paulo (UNIFESP), Brazil.
2021 “Phylum Echinodermata”, for undergraduate students, Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS), Brazil.
2021 “Review of the Genus *Narcissia* Gray, 1840 (Echinodermata, Asteroidea): from Morphology to Taxonomy”, for undergraduate students, Feira de Santana State University (UEFS), Brazil.

TALKS AND CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Invited Talks

- 2012 Virtual Zoology Museum - UFBA: Popularization of Knowledge about the Phylum Echinodermata. In: 29th Brazilian Congress of Zoology, Salvador, Brazil.
2012 Identification of Juveniles and Adults of Asteroidea: A Taxonomic Problem. In: 31st Student Research Seminar and 13th Bahia Federal University Research and Graduate Seminar. Salvador, Brazil.
2010 Echinodermata Collection from the Museum of Zoology of the Bahia Federal University: Testimonies of Biodiversity. In: 29th Student Research Seminar. Salvador, Brazil.

Conference Presentations

- 2019 **Cunha, R.** & Tavares, M. Revision of the genus *Narcissia* Gray, 1840 (Echinodermata, Asteroidea): from morphology to taxonomy. In: 3rd Graduate Meeting of the Museum of Zoology of the University of São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil.
2013 **Cunha, R.**; Martins, L.; Souto, C. & Menegola, C. Morphology of *Narcissia trigonaria* Sladen, 1889 (Asteroidea: Ophidiasteridae): A Taxonomic Problem? In: 2nd Latin American Congress of Echinoderms, São Sebastião, Brazil.
2013 **Cunha, R.**; Martins, L.; Souto, C. & Menegola, C. First Record of *Asterinides folium* (Lütken, 1860) for Northeastern Brazil. In: 4th Brazilian Congress of Marine Biology, Florianópolis, Brazil.
2012 **Cunha, R.**; Souto, C.; Martins, L. & Menegola, C. List of Living and Fossil Asteroidea (Echinodermata) from Brazil: A Focus on the Fauna of Bahia. In: 29th Brazilian Congress of Zoology, Salvador, Brazil.
2011 **Cunha, R.**; Martins, L.; Souto, C. & Menegola, C. Echinodermata from the Northern Coast of the State of Bahia, Brazil. In: 14th Latin American Congress of Marine Sciences, Balneário Camboriú, Brazil.

Scientific Event Organizer

- 2012 XXIX Brazilian Congress of Zoology, co-organizer, UFBA, 3000 participants.
2010 VII Week of Biology, co-organizer, UFBA, 800 participants.

CURATORIAL AND ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2021 **Monitoring Invertebrates in the Marine Environment of the Alcatrazes Archipelago Project**, Federal University of São Paulo (UNIFESP), Santos, Brazil. Supervisor: Fabio Motta, Ph.D.
2019 **Assistant Collections Manager**, Swedish Museum of Natural History. Supervisor: Anna Persson.

- 2017–2019 **Assistant Collections Manager**, Museum of Zoology of the University of São Paulo. Supervisor: Luciana Martins, Ph. D & Marcos Tavares, Ph.D.
- 2015 **Assistant Collections Manager**, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University. Supervisor: Adam Baldinger.
- 2013 **Molecular Analysis of Asteroidea Species for the Integrative Taxonomy Project**, São Carlos Federal University (UFSCar), São Carlos, Brazil. Supervisor: Patricia Freitas, Ph.D.
- 2009–2013 **Assistant Collections Manager**, Museum of Zoology of the Bahia Federal University. Supervisors: Camilla Souto, M.Sc.; Luciana Martins, M. Sc. & Carla Menegola, Ph.D.

RESEARCH AT NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUMS - SCIENTIFIC COLLECTIONS

(Abbreviation: IZ, Invertebrate Zoology)

- 2018 Natural History Museum, London, United Kingdom (IZ), 10 days
- 2018 National Museum of Natural History, Washington D.C., U.S.A. (IZ), 3 months
- 2017 National Museum, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (IZ), 10 days
- 2017–2019 Museum of Zoology, University of São Paulo, Brazil (IZ), 2 years
- 2012 National Museum, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (IZ), 5 days
- 2009–2013 Museum of Zoology, Bahia Federal University, Brazil (IZ), 4 years

RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

- 2022 **Introduction to Biodiversity Specimen Digitization Course**, Integrated Digitized Biocollections, iDigBio (in progress).
- 2022 **Introduction to Programming Course - Tech Academy**, StarSe University.
- 2022 **Preliminary Results of the Diagnosis of Brazilian Zoological Collections**, Information System on Brazilian Biodiversity, Brazilian Society of Zoology.
- 2021 **Actions, Strategies and Techniques to Create and Maintain Scientific Zoo Collections**, Institute of Biology, University of Campinas.
- 2021 **Museums and Marine Biodiversity at Schools**, Group of studies on Museum and Scientific Education.
- 2020 **Morphometrics**, Graduate Division, Bahia Federal University.
- 2020 **Managing and Mobilizing Collection Data with Specify Software**, The Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections Virtual Meeting.
- 2018 **Training on Scanning Electron Microscopy**, Electron Microscope Lab, National Museum of Natural History – Smithsonian Institution.
- 2018 **Training on Specify Database**, Graduate Division, Museum of Zoology of the University of São Paulo.
- 2013 **1st Summer Course in Zoology: Form, Time and Space**, Graduate Division, University of São Paulo.
- 2012 **3rd Summer Course on Animal Diversity**, Graduate Division, Bahia Federal University.
- 2011 **Coral Reefs: An Endangered Ecosystem**, Graduate Division, Bahia Federal University.
- 2011 **2nd Summer Course on Animal Diversity**, Graduate Division, Bahia Federal University.
- 2011 **Scientific Diving**, Graduate Division, Bahia Federal University.
- 2011 **Detection and Evaluation of Environmental Impacts on the Marine Benthos, Using the Primer**, Latin American Congress of Marine Sciences.
- 2010 **International Symposium on Phylogeography**, BIOTA, Foundation of the São Paulo State.
- 2009 **Sampling in Marine Environments: Techniques, Problems and Challenges**, Graduate Division, Bahia Federal University.

ACADEMIC SERVICE AND OUTREACH EXPERIENCE

Efforts towards diversity inclusion in STEM

2021-2022 **Volunteer Researcher** at the Letters to a Pre-Scientist Program. Available [Here](#)

Efforts towards environment management and conservation

2018 **Taxonomic Specialist**, Identification of Sea Stars for The Chico Mendes Institute for Biodiversity Conservation, Brazil (ICMBio). Project coordinator: Harry Boos, Ph.D.

2012 **Speaker** in workshop about Environmental Education, UFBA.

Organizer and participant of scientific exhibitions

2010–2012 Museum Spring at the Museum of Zoology, Bahia Federal University, Brazil (3 events)

2009–2011 Week of Biology, Brazil (3 events)

Ad hoc peer-reviews (3 manuscripts): Check List; Marine Biology Research; Revista de Biología Tropical, Journal of the University of Costa Rica.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Databases – Access-CadZoo, Specify, Arctos

Edition – Microsoft Office, iWork

Geospatial system – QGIS

Image – Photoshop, Illustrator, myVGL (3D), Photo Quad

Programming – GitHub, Markdown, R (basic to intermediary)

LANGUAGES

Portuguese (native speaker), English (C1 Advanced), Spanish (conversational).