

# Yichao Zeng 曾逸超

Last updated 06/28/2022  
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## Education

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**University of Arizona**, Tucson, AZ, USA Aug. 2019 – Present

**Ph.D., Ecology and Evolutionary Biology.**

- Committee: John J. Wiens (Chair), Judith L Bronstein, Michael J. Sanderson, Régis Ferrière, Paulo R. Guimarães Jr.

**Universidade de São Paulo**, Brazil Sep. 2021 – Jan, 2022

- Visiting Ph.D. student focusing on theoretical ecology and ecological networks, with Paulo R. Guimarães Jr.

**University of Florida**, Gainesville, FL, USA Aug. 2017 – May 2019

**M.Sc., Wildlife Ecology and Conservation.**

- Thesis: Medicinal herb collection and wildlife conservation: qualitative and quantitative inferences from participatory research in Wolong Nature Reserve.
- Committee: Vanessa Hull (Chair), Robert A. Mcleery, Mathieu Basille, Jindong Zhang

**Peking University**, Beijing, China Sep. 2013 – July 2017

**B.S., Biological Science.**

- Thesis: Phylogeography of the Indochinese and the keeled box turtles (*Cuora* spp.).
- Advisor: Dr. Shu-jin Luo.

## Research Experience

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**University of Arizona**, Tucson, AZ Aug. 2019 – Present

**Ph.D. Candidate**, *Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology.*

**University of Florida**, Gainesville, FL Aug. 2017 – May 2019

**Graduate Research Assistant**, *Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation.*

- Used field surveys to look at the effects of anthropogenic activities on wildlife occurrence in protected areas.

**Peking University**, Beijing, China Oct. 2015 – July 2017

**Undergraduate Research Assistant**, *School of Life Sciences.*

- Used wet lab and dry lab techniques to look at intraspecific phylogenetic structures of freshwater turtles

**University of California, Davis**, Davis, CA

June 2016 – Sept. 2016

**Undergraduate Intern**, *Department of Entomology and Nematology*.

- Used manipulative greenhouse experiment to look at priority effects in monarch-milkweed interactions

**Peking University**, Beijing, China

Sept. 2014 – Mar. 2015

**Undergraduate Research Assistant**, *School of Life Sciences*.

- Morphologically identified butterfly specimen collected in Sichuan, China.

### ***Other Responsibilities & Activities***

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- Graduate Student Representative. Dept. of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, U. Arizona. Jan. 2022 – Dec. 2022 (expected)
- Advisor, Palm Drive (棕榈大道, [www.palmdrive.cn](http://www.palmdrive.cn)). Assisting students with applications to Ph.D. programs in ecology and/or evolutionary biology. Mar. 2020 – Present.
- Fieldwork Leader. Beijing Butterfly Monitoring Project, Peking University. 2017.
- Volunteer. Monitoring Milkweed-Monarch Interactions for Learning and Conservation (MMILC) Project, UC Davis. 2016.
- Instructor. Beijing Primary and Middle School Birding Competition, Dongcheng Youth S&T Museum, Beijing, China. 2016.
- 1st Award. Beijing College Birding Competition. China Biodiversity Conservation and Green Development Foundation. 2015.
- Volunteer. Chongzuo Biodiversity Research Institute, Peking University. 2015.
- Volunteer. Lab of Population Genetics, Peking University. 2015.
- Person in Charge. GreenLife Society, Peking University. 2014 – 2015.

### ***Peer-reviewed Publications***

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Yang, L.H., & **137 coauthors**. 2022. Different factors limit early- and late-season windows of opportunity for monarch development. *Ecology and Evolution*. In press.

Sanderson, M.J., Búrquez, A., Copetti, D., McMahon, M.M., **Zeng, Y.**, Wojciechowski, M.F., 2022. Origin and diversification of the saguaro cactus (*Carnegiea gigantea*): a within-species phylogenomic analysis. *Systematic Biology*. <https://doi.org/10.1093/sysbio/syac017>.

**Zeng, Y.**, Wiens J.J., 2021. Do mutualistic interactions last longer than antagonistic interactions? *Proceedings of the Royal Society, Series B*, 288, pp. 20211457. 20211457. <https://doi.org/10.1098/rspb.2021.1457>.

Hou, J., Hull, V., Connor, T., Yang, H., Gao, J., Zhao, F., Liao, Y., Chen, S., Huang, J., **Zeng, Y.** and Zhou, S., 2021. Scent communication behavior by giant pandas. *Global Ecology and*

*Conservation*, 25, p.e01431. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gecco.2020.e01431>.

**Zeng, Y.**, Wiens J.J., 2021. Species interactions have predictable impacts on diversification. *Ecology Letters*, 24(2), pp.239-248.  
<https://doi.org/10.1111/ele.13635>.

Hou, J., He, Y., Yang, H., Connor, T., Gao, J., Wang, Y., **Zeng, Y.**, Zhang, J., Huang, J., Zheng, B. and Zhou, S., 2020. Identification of animal individuals using deep learning: A case study of giant panda. *Biological Conservation*, 242, p.108414.  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.biocon.2020.108414>.

**Zeng, Y.**, Zhang, J. and Hull, V., 2019. Mixed-method study on medicinal herb collection in relation to wildlife conservation: the case of giant pandas in China. *Integrative Zoology*, 14(6), pp.604-612. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1749-4877.12381>.

## ***Other Publications***

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### **Newspaper articles:**

Zeng Y., How do interactions between different species impact the generation of biodiversity? China Green Times (中国绿色时报) . February 25, 2021. p.4. Title in original language: 不同物种间的相互作用如何影响生物多样性的形成? (An introduction to Zeng & Wiens 2021 *Ecol. Lett.*, geared toward the general public.)  
<http://www.greentimes.com/greentimepaper/page/1/2021-02-25/04/28421614212831452.pdf>

## ***Awards, Grants & Scholarships***

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William A. Calder III Memorial Scholarship, Department of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, University of Arizona (\$5000). 2022.

Robert W. Hoshaw Memorial Award, Department of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, University of Arizona (Oldest and most prestigious departmental award for grad students, \$1823.83). 2022.

Graduate Student Awards - Excellence in Scholarship, University of Arizona College of Science (\$100). 2021.

Tropical Conservation and Development Field Research Grant, Center for Latin American Studies, University of Florida (\$2,000). Research proposal entitled “Modeling distribution of giant pandas in a coupled human and natural system using GIS and participatory mapping”. 2018.

Jennings Scholarship, University of Florida (\$1,350). 2018.

Graduate Student Council Travel Grant, Univ. of Florida (\$350). 2018.

Wildlife Graduate Student Association Student Travel Award, Univ. of Florida (\$250). 2018.

Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences Travel Grant, Univ. of Florida (\$250). September 2018.

Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences Travel Grant, Univ. of Florida (\$250). June 2018.  
Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Field Research Scholarship, Univ. of Florida (\$2,000). 2017.

Undergraduate Summer Research Grant. School of Life Sciences, Peking University (equivalent to \$4,200). 2016.

Undergraduate Student Conference Travel Grant. School of Life Sciences, Peking University (CNY ¥1,607). 2016.

### ***Contributed talks***

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**Zeng Y**, Wiens J. Species interactions have predictable effects on diversification. Evolution Meeting. Online. 2021.

**Zeng Y**, Zhang J, Hull V. Participatory approaches for quantitative analysis in wildlife research. Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting. New Orleans, LA, USA. 2018.

**Zeng Y**, Zhang J, Hull V. Modeling changes in giant panda distribution in a coupled human and natural system. Student Conference on Conservation Science, American Museum of Natural History. New York, NY, USA. 2018.

### ***Invited talks***

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**Zeng Y**. Testing hypotheses that link macroevolution and species interactions. Graduate program in ecology, University of São Paulo, Brazil. 2021.

### ***Posters***

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Chen J, Chen X, Liu H, Shen Y, **Zeng Y**, Yin L. Biodiversity survey in Chongzuo examined effects of the white-headed langur (*Trachypithecus leucocephalus*) as a flagship species on habitat conservation. Conservation of China's Tropical Biodiversity Conference. Kunshan, China. 2016.

## ***Work Presented by Colleagues***

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Gaillard D, **Zeng Y**, Chen H, Lin L, Shi H, Luo S. Eight foot and flower power turtles: a phylogenetic and phylogeographic approach to conservation. 16th Annual Symposium on the Conservation and Biology of Tortoises and Freshwater Turtles. Fort Worth, TX, USA. 2018.

## ***Journal Review***

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Annals of Botany, PeerJ, Communications Biology

## ***Teaching Experience***

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**University of Arizona**, Tucson, AZ, USA Aug. 2019 – Present  
**Graduate Teaching Assistant.**

Course: Genetics (Fall 2019, Fall 2020, & Summer 2021), Introductory Biology Lab (Spring 2020), Diversity of Life (Summer 2020), Marine Biology & Animal Sexual Behavior (Spring 2021 & Fall 2021).

**Peking University**, Beijing, China Sept. 2015 – July 2016  
**Undergraduate Teaching Assistant**, *School of Life Sciences*.  
Course: Scientific Research Professional Skills.

## ***Workshops attended***

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Species distribution modeling workshop, Peking University-ETH Zurich, Beijing, China, 2018

## ***Additional Information***

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- TOEFL (2018, internet-based):112 (speaking score: 26)
- GRE (2016): Quantitative- 170 (96th percentile), Verbal- 154 (65th percentile), Writing- 3.5
- Driver's license: Class E (United States), C1 (P.R. China, Manual)