

Leslie E. Ruyle

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Education

Doctorate of Philosophy in Ecology. Odum School of Ecology. University of Georgia, Athens, GA.
August 2012.

Bachelor of Science- Interdisciplinary Studies; Double concentration- Ecology and Biology.
Montana State University- Northern. December 1994.

Professional Experience

Applied Biodiversity Sciences Program Coordinator. Texas A&M University. August 2010- Present.
National Science Foundation- Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship Program.

Independent Researcher. Cayos Cochinos, Honduras. March 2008- July 2010.

Project: Dissertation research on the conservation of a critically endangered iguana species, *Ctenosaura melanosterna*, on the Cayos Cochinos Archipelago.

- Population viability analysis and population ecology of *C. melanosterna* using a four-year mark/ recapture study in the Cayos Cochinos Archipelago
- Comparison of *C. melanosterna* between protected islands, human adulterated islands, and high density human populated islands.
- Past, present, and future recommendations of Iguanas in Central America: A group collaboration with TRAFFIC and members of the Iguana Specialist Group
- Conservation education in local schools and communities.

Instructor. Texas A&M University*, University of Georgia**, and University of Calgary***
Created and taught new course, “Introduction to Biodiversity Research Conservation” for undergraduate students, January 2013- May 2013.*

Field Course: Applied Biodiversity Sciences Amazon Graduate Student Course, Peru. May 2011, 2013.*

Course: Ecology/ Biology Lab 3500. August 2006- December 2006. Ecology for majors.**

Course: Ecology/ Biology Lab 1108. January 2006- May 2006. Science for non-majors.**

Course: Ecology/ Biology Lab 3500. August 2005- December 2005. Ecology for majors.**

Field Course: Conservation and Field Experience. Upper West Region, Ghana. July 2001.***

Research Technician/ Coordinator.

Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute. Gamboa, Panama. January 2005- June 2005.

Project: Measuring fitness traits in *Chelymorpha* infected with *Wolbachia*.

Savannah River Ecology Laboratory. Aiken, South Carolina. April 2003- August 2004.

Project: River otter latrine characteristics and seasonal marking habits in South Carolina.

Baltimore Zoo Research Coordinator. Baltimore, Maryland. January 2003-April 2003.

Project: Mountain gorilla and human health assessment.

Northern Arizona University Research Coordinator. Wechiau, Ghana. August 2001- December 2002.

Project: Cordon Bleu (*Uraeginthus bengalus*) – Wasp (Rhopalidae) commensalism study.

Earthwatch Institute. Upper West Region, Ghana. November 2000- December 2002.

Project: Ecological baseline surveys of the Wechiau Community Hippo Sanctuary.

Community Conservation and Wildlife Project Advisor. September 2000- December 2002.

Peace Corps and Nature Conservation Research Center. Upper West Region, Ghana.

Project: Creation of a wildlife reserve managed by indigenous people.

Research Associate. May 1997- September 2000.

Procter and Gamble. Research and Development Division. Hunt Valley, Maryland.

Projects: Supervised contractors in the US, Italy, and the UK. Created and scaled up formulations.

Supervised process engineering in US plant.

Zoo Keeper. February 1995-May 1997.

Baltimore Zoo. Mammal Department. Baltimore, Maryland.
Project: Mammal keeper; primates, cats, giraffes. Managed African hedgehog breeding colony.

Field and Citizen Science Experience

Biosphere Expeditions

Hunting, farming, and Leopards. Dec. 2010.
Ongos Farm, Windhoek, Namibia.
Photo capture of whales and dolphins. May 2010.
Azores, Portugal.
Conservation of Arabian Leopards. Feb. 2010.
Salalah, Oman.

Reef Check

Honduran Coral Reefs. Mar. 2008 and 2009
Cayos Cochinos, Honduras.

Earthwatch Institute

Tarangire Migration. Sept. 2008.
Tarangire National Park, Tanzania.
Penguins of Robben Island. May 2008.
Robben Island, South Africa.

Carnivores of the Cerrado. June 2007.
Emas National Park, Brazil.
South Africa's Brown Hyenas. Aug. 2006.
Pilanesberg National Park, South Africa.
Historic Bridges of China. July 2006.
Zhejiang Province, China.
Archaeology of Peru's Huari Empire. Aug. 2005.
Cotocotuyoc, Huaro Valley, Peru.
Puerto Rico's Rainforest. Dec. 2004.
Las Casas de la Selva Forest, Puerto Rico
Herpetological and bat surveys. Dec. 2004.
Pantanal, Brazil.
Crocodiles of the Okavango Delta. Dec. 2003.
Okavango Delta, Botswana.

Recruited Volunteer. Herpetological surveys. Feb.- June 2005.
Omar Trujillos National Park, El Cope, Panama.

Independent study. Namibian flora and fauna. Jan. 2004.
Sossusvli, Etosha National Park, Skeleton Coast, Huab, Windhoek, Namibia.

Recruited Volunteer. Geoffrey's Pied Colobus Monkey Project. Sept. 2001.
Boabeng-Fiema Monkey Sanctuary. Brong-Ahafo Region, Ghana.

Recruited Volunteer. Mountain Gorilla Project. April 2001.
Virunga National Park, Rwanda.

Independent study. UCOTA (Uganda Community Tourist Association) Survey.
March 2001. Head Office, Kampala, Mgahinga Community Campground,
Bushara Island Camp, Uganda.

Recruited Volunteer. Malaysian Sun Bear Project. Aug. 2000.
Danum Valley, Sabah, Malaysia.

Intern. Colorado Division of Wildlife. Jan.- May 1990.
Greeley, Colorado.

Procural and Management of Grants

- \$800 grant from TAMU to take undergraduate research assistant to Honduras.
- \$100,000 grant for doctoral studies.
- \$30,000 grant for research assistantship to the University of Georgia.
- \$2,500 grant from local landowner for *Ctenosaura melanosterna* and *Iguana iguana* conservation in Cayos Cochinos, Honduras.
- Managed grant and authored quarterly progress reports and fund expenditure records for USAID at the Wechiau Community Hippo Sanctuary.
- Authored operational needs assessment and corresponding action plan for the Wechiau Community Hippo Sanctuary that, incorporated with 13 other sites, resulted in an \$800,000 USAID grant.
- Authored needs assessment and budget for Calgary Zoo, resulting in \$4,000 grant.
- Authored itinerary and field conditions advisory for Wechiau project for Earthwatch.

Education, Community Outreach and Mentoring Experience

- **Work featured in Honduran national newspaper, La Prensa.** San Pedro Sula, Honduras. May 2009 <http://archivo.laprensa.hn/Ruta%20504/Ediciones/2009/05/31/Noticias/La-isla-del-tesoro>

- **Participated in Environmental and Conservation education program with local schools.** 2008-2010. Cayos Cochinos, Honduras.
- **American Schools field lecturer.** 2008-2010. Cayos Cochinos, Honduras.
- **Operation Wallacea Mentor.** June-July 2008, 2009, and 2010. Cayos Cochinos, Honduras.
- **Worldwide Schools Mentor.** January- June 2005. Dallas, TX, August- May 2000. Zavala Elementary. McAllen, TX.
- **REU Mentor.** June- July 2003 and 2004. Savannah River Ecology Laboratory, Aiken, South Carolina.
- **Advisor.** Wechiau Community Hippo Sanctuary. November 2000-December 2002. Wechiau, Upper West Region, Ghana.
- **BBC World Radio Livelihood and Sustainability Interviewee.** August 2002. Wechiau Community Hippo Sanctuary, Ghana.
- **BBC AIDS Documentary Film Assistant.** March 2001. Kampala, Uganda.
- **BBC Wildlife and Community Conservation Documentary Host.** November 2000. Wechiau Community Hippo Sanctuary, Ghana.
- **High School Volleyball Coach.** August 1998- November 2000. Dulaney High School. Hunt Valley, Maryland.
- **Junior Olympic Volleyball Coach.** July 1997- July 2000. Time Out for Sports. Baltimore, Maryland.
- **Graduate Coaching Assistant.** May 1994- December 1994. Montana State University- Northern. Havre, Montana.

Publications

Ruyle, L.E. and D.B. Miles. 2013. Parasite load covaries with sex, body condition and anthropogenic perturbation in the endangered endemic lizard, *Ctenosaura melanosterna*. *In prep.*

Ruyle, L.E., Laurencio, L., Jepson, W., Hurst, K., Hutton, C. Toledo, D., and L.A. Fitzgerald. 2013. Applied Biodiversity Science: Bridging Ecology, Culture and Governance for Effective Conservation. Impact Assessment of the ABS NSF-IGERT Program. *Published internally.*

Davis, A.K., Benz, A.C., **Ruyle, L.E.**, and M. Yabsley. 2013. Searching before it's too late: a survey of blood parasites in *Ctenosaura melanosterna*, a critically endangered reptile. *ISRN Parasitology. Vol. 2013. Article ID 495304*, 6 pages. <http://dx.doi.org/10.5402/2013/495304>

Pasaschnik, S., Montgomery, C.E., **Ruyle, L.E.**, Corneil, J.P., Antunez, E.E. 2013. Morphological and demographic analyses of the Black-chested Spiny-tailed Iguanas, *Ctenosaura melanosterna*, across their range: Implications for population level management. *Herpetological Conservation and Biology. Accepted.*

Davis, A.K., **Ruyle, L.E.**, and J.C. Maerz. 2011. Effect of trapping method on leukocyte profiles of Black-chested Spiny-tailed Iguanas (*Ctenosaura melanosterna*): implications for zoologists in the field. *ISRN Zoology* vol. 2011, Article ID 384825.

Stephen, C., Pasaschnik, S., Reuter, A., Moasig, P., **Ruyle, L.E.**, and Fitzgerald, L. 2011. Survey of Status, Trade, and Exploitation of Central American Iguanas. TRAFFIC and USFW Report.

Published photos

"Frogs: The Animal Answer Guide" 2011 by Michael Dorcas and Whit Gibbons.

"*Ctenosaura* Identification Guide" 2011 for the Iguana Specialist Group and IUCN. <http://www.iucn-ig.org/files/Taxology/067c584e-343b-4d96-8a7c-fc1cebfabdd6.pdf>

Reviewer

Herpetological Conservation and Biology
Herpetological Review

Presentations

- World Congress of Herpetology, Vancouver, Canada, August 2012, “*Comparative population demographics reveal the impact of anthropogenic impacts on a critically endangered micro-endemic species*”.
 - World Congress of Herpetology, Vancouver, Canada, August 2012, “*Parasite load covaries with sex, body condition and anthropogenic perturbation in the endangered endemic lizard, Ctenosaura melanosterna*” Poster.
 - Ecological Society of America, August 2011, “*Effects of varying human population pressures on the critically endangered endemic Honduran Paleate Spiny-tailed Iguana, Ctenosaura melanosterna, in the Cayos Cochinos Archipelago, Honduras*”. Talk.
 - Invited speaker: “*Iguana Conservation in Central America*”. TAMU Herpetology Club
 - Guest lecturer TAMU Cross-Cultural Communication: Communities and Conservation weekend course. 2010, 2011 “*Community Conservation in Ghana, West Africa*”.
 - Guest lecturer TAMU ABS I course. 2010, 2012 “*Parabiologists and Conservation*”.
 - Guest lecturer TAMU ABS I course. 2010, 2012 “*Citizen Science and Conservation*”.
 - Invited speaker: “*Conservation of Ctenosaura melanosterna in Cayos Cochinos, Honduras*” National University of San Salvador (lecture given in Spanish).
 - Invited speaker UGA WFSC Seminar series. “*Community Conservation in West Africa*”.
 - Iguana Specialist Group (ISG) meeting: “*Conservation of Ctenosaura melanosterna in Cayos Cochinos, Honduras*”.
 - Invited speaker: “*Iguana Conservation in Central America*”. UGA Herpetology Club.
 - Invited speaker Palmetto Bluffs Development Corp. “*Mating Strategies*”.
 - Guest lecturer UGA ECOL/BIOL 3500. “*Population Growth*”.
 - Ecology Peanut Butter Club UGA guest speaker: “*Community-based Hippo Conservation in West Africa*”.
 - Invited speaker: “*River Otters: The Water Jesters*”. Savannah River Ecology Laboratory Outreach Program. Teaching Teachers to Teach.
 - Ruyle, L.E., Gaines, K.F., Serfass, T.L., and J.M. Novak: “*River Otters, Lontra canadensis: Latrine characteristics and seasonal marking habits in South Carolina*”. Poster for the Southeastern Evolution and Ecology Conference, Atlanta, Georgia. March 2004.
 - Invited speaker: “*Lions and Elephants and Hippos, Oh My*”. McAllen, TX; Zavala Elementary School.
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Service and Additional Education

- Moderated ‘*Anthropogenic Impacts on Reptiles*’ session at the World Congress of Herpetology meetings in Vancouver, Canada, August 2012.
- Project Wild July 2012, College Station, TX.
- Project Aquatic May 2012, College Station, TX.
- Moderated ‘*Conservation Management*’ session at the Ecological Society of America in Austin, TX, August 2011.
- Workshop on successful syllabus writing, Texas A&M University, November 2011.
- Texas Master Naturalist course, College Station, TX, September- October 2011.
- Hosted 2010 Annual Ecological Integration Symposium (EIS) social at my home, by request of the students.
- Member of the Iguana Specialist Group (ISG)
- PADI Certified SCUBA Dive Master, October 2009
- Emergency First Response Training, July 2009

- PADI Certified SCUBA Rescue Diver, August 2008.
- Certified in Reef Check Eco-Diver for fish, invertebrates, and corals, March 2009
- PADI Certified Advanced Diver, April 2008.
- PADI Certified Open Water Diver, April 2008.
- Wilderness First Aid Certified (Wilderness Medical Associates). October 2005.
- Adult CPR certified (Wilderness Medical Associates). October 2005.
- Care and Prevention of Athletic Injuries. August 1998.
- First Aid and CPR (American Red Cross) August 1998.
- Intermediate Spanish speaker
- Conversant in Waale, Tribal language from Ghana