

Gabriela Quesada Ávila

Personal information

Date of birth: December 20, 1992.
Place of birth: San José, Costa Rica.
Citizenship: Costa Rican.
E-mail address: gquesadaavila@usf.edu
Marital status: Single

Education

- 2022- ***PhD. Integrative Biology (Expected graduation date: Aug 2027)***
University of South Florida, USA
- 2016- 2019 ***Lic. Natural Resources Management (Graduation date: November 2019)*** Universidad Nacional, Heredia, Costa Rica
- 2010-2015 ***B.Sc. Tropical Biology (Graduation date: November 2015).***
Universidad Nacional, Heredia, Costa Rica

Publications

Quesada-Ávila, G., Slot, M., McCulloch, L. A., Sarmiento, C., & Zalamea, P. C. :“Thermal requirements on seed germination of tropical pioneer tree species.” In prep. *Ecosphere*

Quesada-Ávila, G., Turner, B. L., & Hall, J. S. (2021). No Evidence that the Valuable Timber Species, *Dalbergia Retusa*, Enhances Nutrient Cycling and Uptake by Neighboring Timber Species. *Journal of Sustainable Forestry*, 1-13.

Esquivel, C., Jorge, M., Vargas, S. S., Paniagua, S., Cambronero, A. E., Núñez, D., & **Quesada-Avila, G.** (2020). Anthropogenic materials used by birds to nest in an urban landscape of Costa Rica. *UNED Research Journal*, 12(2), e3124-e3124.

Ramírez-Aguirre, E., Martén-Rodríguez, S., **Quesada-Avila, G.**, Quesada, M., Martínez-Díaz, Y., Oyama, K., Espinosa-García, F. J. Reproductive isolation between three sympatric *Achimenes* species: pre- and post- pollination components (2019). *American Journal of Botany*.

Ramirez-Alán, O., Martínez D., Barrantes M., Calderón M. E., J. M, De La O. J, Esquivel C. A, Hidalgo-Rojas, E, Madrigal R. V, Monge G.F., Monge V. M., Monge. V. D., Morales R.L., Núñez C. D., **Quesada A. G.**, Ramírez M. H., Vásquez B. O., Webb A. W., & Zúñiga O. A. (2014). Update of the protocol for monitoring migratory raptors: Kéköldi observatory, Costa Rica. *Spizaetus: Neotropical Raptor Network*. Vol 18 (22-31).

Conference Proceedings

- 2024 Poster presentation during the 109th Annual meeting of the Ecological Society of America (ESA). Abstract in: **Gabriela Quesada-Ávila**, Martijn Slot, Lindsay McCulloch, Carolina Sarmiento & Paul-Camilo Zalamea: "Thermal requirements on seed germination of tropical pioneer tree species."
- 2017 Poster presentation during the 54th Annual meeting of the Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation: - "ATBC 2017: Ecological and social dimensions of tropical biodiversity conservation". Abstract in: **Quesada-Ávila, G.**, Rodríguez, A. & Guerra-Martínez, F. **2017** "Natural regeneration of the Tropical Dry Forest in actively managed firebreaks."

Grants and awards

- March 2025 Botany in Action Fellowship awarded by Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens in Pittsburgh. Amount: \$6000
(<https://www.phipps conservatory.org/green-innovation/for-the-world/botany-in-action/call-for-proposals>)
- Aug 2024 Best Poster presentation. Latin American and Caribbean Chapter, 109th Annual meeting of the Ecological Society of America (ESA). Abstract in: **Gabriela Quesada-Ávila**, Martijn Slot, Lindsay McCulloch, Carolina Sarmiento & Paul-Camilo Zalamea: "Thermal requirements on seed germination of tropical pioneer tree species."
- Jun 2024 Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation (ATBC) Seed Research Grant. Amount : \$1000
(<https://tropicalbiology.org/grants-awards/atbc-seed-research-grant/>)
- May 2024 Hamed Mirzaei Foundation travel grant. Amount : \$500
(<https://www.hamedmirzaei.org/grants>)
- May 2024 University of South Florida, Integrative Biology travel grant. Amount: \$600.

Academic Experience

- 2019 **Research assistant** with Andy Kulikowski Ph.D candidate. Environmental Studies, University of California, Santa Cruz (1 month).* *The influence of third-party intermediaries on environmental and social outcomes in payment for ecosystem service (PES) schemes.

- 2019 **Teaching and Laboratory Assistant** with Ph.D Roberto Cordero Solórzano of the General Botany Course (BIF402) (6 months). Plant Functional Ecology Laboratory, Universidad Nacional de Costa Rica.
- 2018 **Research assistant** with Yessenia Martinez postdoctoral student. Plant Ecology and Evolution Laboratory, Escuela Nacional de Estudios Superiores, ENES, Morelia, Universidad Autónoma de México* (UNAM) (6 months internship). * Floral attractants evolution on the *Achimenes* genus, an adaptive radiation in Mexico. (PAPIT Project IA207618). Funded project with Professor Silvana Martén Rodríguez, Ph.D., PI.
- 2017 **Research assistant** with German Vargas Ph.D candidate Plant Biological Sciences, University of Minnesota* (15 days). *Rainfall regimes drive tropical dry forests tree species' drought tolerance. As part of the project: The role of functional traits in tropical dry forest plant communities drought tolerance.
- 2017 **Research assistant** with Ph.D. Silvana Martén Rodríguez. Assistant Professor. Plant Ecology and Evolution Laboratory, Escuela Nacional de Estudios Superiores, ENES, Morelia, Universidad Autónoma de México* (UNAM) (6 months). *Evolution of reproductive characters and pollination systems of Mesoamerican Gesneriads (PAPIIT IA208416).
- 2017 **Ad honorem Teaching assistant** with Ph.D Roberto Cordero Solórzano of the Plant Ecology Course (BIF4230) (6 months). Plant Functional Ecology Laboratory, Universidad Nacional de Costa Rica.
- 2016 **Research assistant** with Ph.D. Andrea Vincent Rossi, Biology School, Universidad de Costa Rica* (8 months)
* Contributing factors on greenhouse gas emissions in the dry forest and their interaction with the ecosystem integrity. Collaboration project TEC/UCR/UNA (2015-2016).

Work Experience

- Mar-Jul 2022 **Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (STRI) Intern** as part of the project: "Drying Effects on Roots" under Amanda Longhi Cordeiro (PhD candidate) and Daniel Cusack (Principal Investigator) mentorship.
- Oct-Dec 2021 **Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (STRI) Intern** as part of the project: "Drying Effects on Roots" under Amanda Longhi Cordeiro (PhD candidate) and Daniel Cusack (Principal Investigator) mentorship.
- Jun-Aug 2021 **Full-time Teaching Assistant** with the CIEE Study Abroad Program Monteverde in the summer edition course: "Women in STEM"
- Feb- Dec 2020 **Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (STRI) Intern** as part of the ecological restoration project: "Ecosystem Dynamics in Natural and Planted Forests in Agua Salud" under Jefferson Hall mentorship.

Aug-2019 Dec **Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (STRI) Intern** as part of the ecological restoration project: “Ecosystem Dynamics in Natural and Planted Forests in Agua Salud” under Jefferson Hall mentorship.

Jun-Jul 2019 **Full-time teaching assistant** with the Organization for Tropical Studies (OTS) in the summer edition graduate course: “Tropical Biology, an Ecological Approach (TropBio 19-3)”.

March 2019 **Environmental Educator Associate** with Surá Consulting Agency.

March 2018 **Environmental Educator Associate** with Brenesii Foundation (<http://brenesii.com/>).

Languages

- Spanish (native language).
- English (Advanced). TOEFL scores: 91/120
- French (Advanced, learned in the French high school Lycée Franco Costarricien, Graduation date: 2009)

Other technical abilities

R software programing and statistical procedures.	Intermediate user
GIS (QGIS) software management for map design and spatial data analysis.	Basic user
Greenhouse management	Basic user

Professional References

Paul-Camilo Zalamea, Ph.D	paulcamiloz@usf.edu
Martijn Slot, Ph.D	martijnslot78@gmail.com
Lindsay McCulloch, Ph.D	lmcculloch@usf.edu
Jefferson Hall, Ph.D	HallJe@si.edu
Roberto Cordero, PhD	ticolamb@gmail.com