

**Kyle Dexter**

www.phylodiversity.net/kdexter

*Curriculum Vitae*

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### **Current Position**

Post-doctoral Fellow  
Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique  
Laboratoire de Evolution et Diversité Biologique  
Université Paul Sabatier

### **Contact**

Université Paul Sabatier  
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31062 Toulouse, France  
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### **Education**

B.A., University of Virginia, 2002  
Majors: Biology and Environmental Sciences  
Advisors: Henry Wilbur, Hank Shugart, and Janis Antonovics

Ph.D., Duke University, 2008  
Focus: Ecology, Evolution, and Population Genetics of Tropical Trees  
Advisors: John Terborgh and Cliff Cunningham

### **Fellowships and Grants**

- Post-doctoral Fellowship from Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (2008-2010)
- DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) Research Fellowship (2008) declined
- National Science Foundation Dissertation Improvement Grant (2006)
- National Science Foundation Pre-doctoral Fellowship (2004-2007)
- James B. Duke Fellowship from Duke University (2003-2007)
- Nouragues Research Station Grant (2008)
- Duke University Biology Department Grant-in-Aid of Research (2007)
- Lewis and Clark Fund for Exploration and Research Grant from American Philosophical Society (2006)
- Explorer's Club Exploration Fund Grant (2006)
- Duke University Dissertation Travel Award (2006)
- Sigma Xi Grant in Aid of Research (2005)
- Society of Systematic Biologists Graduate Student Award (2005)
- Vertical Integration Research Award from Trinity College, Duke University (2005)
- Amazon Conservation Association Doctoral Student Research Grant (2004)
- Tinker Research Grant from Latin American and Caribbean Studies Consortium (2004)
- Mellon Graduate Student Research Travel Grant (2004)
- Organization for Tropical Studies Post-Course Research Grant (2004)

### **Honors**

- Perry Prize for Best Dissertation in Plant Sciences, Duke University (2009)
- Awarded Bass Named Instructorship at Duke University (2008)
- Selected for Preparing Future Faculty Program at Duke University (2005-2006)
- Selected for participation in the American Association for the Advancement of Science Program for Excellence in Science, entails 1 year sponsored membership in AAAS (2004-2006); nominated by Dean of Medical School (2004) and Dean of Trinity College (2005) at Duke University.

**Publications**

- **Dexter K.G.**, Terborgh J., Cunningham C.W. History and ecology determine community assembly and beta-diversity of tropical trees. In review. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences USA*.
- **Dexter, K.G.**, Pennington T.D. *Inga pitmanii*: a new species of Inga from Madre de Dios, Peru. In review. *Novon*.
- **Dexter K.G.** The influence of dispersal on macroecological patterns in Lesser Antillean birds. In revision. *J. of Biogeography*.
- **Dexter K.G.**, Pennington T.D., and Cunningham C.W. Using DNA to assess errors in tropical tree identifications: how often are ecologists wrong and does it matter? In press. *Ecological Monographs*.
- Kursar T.A., **Dexter K.G.**, Lokvam J., Pennington R.T., Richardson J.E., Weber M.G., Murakami E., Drake C., McGregor R., Coley P.D. 2009. The evolution of anti-herbivore defenses and their contribution to species coexistence in the tropical tree genus Inga. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences USA* 106 (43): 18073-18078.
- Loarie S.R., **Dexter K.G.**, Fleming-Davies A., Gronewold A.D., Liu J., McBride A., Pollina E. 2007. Density dependence and population growth: evaluating classical and Bayesian approaches to parameter estimation and model selection. In J.S. Clark "Statistical Computation for Environmental Sciences in R". pp 134-142. Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ.
- Tripp E.A.\* and **Dexter K.G.\*** 2006. A New Northern Record of Palms in eastern North America (*Sabal minor*). *Castanea* 71 (2): 172-177.  
\*both authors contributed equally

**Journals for which Reviewer**

- Ecology
- Ecology Letters
- Oikos
- Malacological Bulletin
- Journal of Biogeography
- Annals of Botany

**Invited or Contributed Presentations**

- Factors limiting the distribution and abundance of tropical trees. 24/9/09. AMAP Research Institute, Montpellier, France.
- Contribution of divergence in herbivore-defense strategies versus resource-use strategies to facilitating coexistence of tropical trees. 4/8/09. Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting. Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA.
- Phylogenetic and trait structure of Inga communities. 27/7/09. Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation Annual Meeting. Marburg, Germany.
- Evolution of climatic adaptation in tropical trees. 30/6/09. ESF Conservation Genetics and Thermal Adaptation Workshop. Bialowieza, Poland.
- Neutral ecological theory and phylogeography in lowland Amazonian tree communities. 17/2/09. Ecofog Research Campus. Kourou, French Guiana.

- Tree plots, DNA barcoding, and the contribution of tropical ecologists to species discovery. 28/6/08. Botanical Society of America Annual Meeting. Vancouver, BC, Canada.
- Phylogeography and community ecology in lowland Amazonian tree communities. 4/1/08. University of Sheffield, Sheffield, UK.
- Dispersal dynamics and neutral theory in Amazonian tree communities. 3/18/08. British Ecological Society Tropical Ecology Group Meeting. Oxford, UK.
- DNA barcoding, historical biogeography, and community ecology of lowland Amazonian tree communities. 3/13/08. Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, UK.
- Comparative phylogeography and neutral theory in lowland Amazonian tree communities. 3/4/08. Laboratoire Evolution and Diversité Biologique, Toulouse, France.
- An empirical assessment of neutral theory in lowland Amazonian tree communities. 2/13/08. Netherlands Ecological Research Network Annual Meeting. Lunteren, Netherlands.
- Neutral dynamics can explain patterns in the distribution, but not the abundance, of tropical trees. 8/8/07. Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting. San Jose, California, USA.
- The effects of dispersal on the distribution and abundance of tropical trees. 7/16/07. Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation Annual Meeting. Morelia, Mexico.
- La distribución de árboles tropicales. 5/10/06. La Universidad Agraria La Molina, Lima, Peru.
- Does dispersal limitation explain distribution patterns of tree species in Western Amazonia? 10/16/05. Pan-Amazon Research Group seminar series. University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, USA.
- Overview of research into the ecology and distribution of *Inga* (Fabaceae). 9/27/05. Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis, Missouri, USA.
- Niche assembly versus dispersal assembly of tropical tree communities. 9/26/05. University of Missouri-St. Louis. St. Louis, Missouri, USA.
- Species-area curves in the Lesser Antillean Avifauna. 6/14/05. Society for the Study of Evolution Annual Meeting. Fairbanks, Alaska, USA.
- On the distribution and conservation of diversity in the Amazon basin. 3/30/05. Pan-Amazon Research Group seminar series. University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, USA.
- Edge effects and parasitism dynamics in small mammals. 8/15/01. Undergraduate Research Symposium. Mountain Lake Biological Station. Pembroke, Virginia, USA.
- Feeding ecology of hippopotami in the Okavango Delta and implications for management. 5/15/01. Okavango Research Center Seminar Series. Okavango Research Center. Maun, Botswana.

### **Guest Lectures**

- Patterns in the distribution and abundance of species. 10/15/07. For Ecology Class of Kathryn Perez at North Carolina Central University, Durham, North Carolina, USA.
- What determines tropical plant distributions? 2/15/07. For Tropical Ecology Class of Varun Swamy at Duke University, Durham, North Carolina, USA.
- Birds on islands as a model system in ecology and evolutionary biology. 4/10/06. For Ecology Class of Dr. Lynn Moseley at Guilford College, Greensboro, North Carolina, USA.

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### **Professional Affiliations**

- Ecological Society of America
- British Ecological Society
- Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation
- Sigma Xi Scientific Research Society

### **Teaching/Mentoring Experience**

- Co-advised Juliette Chamagne, a master's student at Université Paul Sabatier in her project on historical biogeography of Chrysobalanaceae. JC was ranked #1 out of 16 master's students (2009).
- Co-advised Julien Vieux, a master's student at Université Paul Sabatier in his project on diversification of Sapotaceae. JV was ranked #4 out of 16 master's students (2009).
- Mentored six Peruvian undergraduate students working with me during several field expeditions (2004-2006).
- Mentored Duke University undergraduates, Diana Massey and Caroline Kim, plus visiting professor, Dr. Zehao Shen, in molecular ecology methods over the course of dissertation research (2004-2007).
- Teaching Assistant for Cell Biology and Genetics; professor: Dr. Allison Hill, Duke University (Fall 2004).
- Teaching Assistant for Molecular Evolution; professor: Dr. John Mercer, Duke University (Spring 2005).

### **Service**

- SEEDS mentor for undergraduate student from underrepresented group at ESA Annual Meeting (2009).
- Seminar Committee for University Program in Ecology at Duke University (2006-2008)
- Chair of Graduate Student Steering Committee of Biology Department at Duke University (2006-2007)
- Selection committee for Gordon E. Hammes Faculty Teaching Award for professors in biomedicine at Duke University (2005)

*Last updated February 2nd, 2010.*