

## CURRICULUM VITAE

### MICHAEL G. BRANSTETTER

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Born 21 March 1983. U.S. Citizen.

#### EDUCATION

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- Ph.D.** Entomology, University of California, Davis. June 2012  
Dissertation: "Taxonomy, phylogeny and biogeography of the ant genus *Stenamma* (Hymenoptera: Formicidae), with an emphasis on Middle American species." Advisor: Dr. Philip S. Ward.
- B.Sc.** The Evergreen State College. June 2005  
Mentor: John T. Longino.

#### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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- 2014-Present Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Biology, University of Utah.  
2014-Present Research Affiliate, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution.  
2012-2014 Buck Postdoctoral Fellow, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution.

#### LANGUAGES

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English (native), French (basic), Spanish (fluent).

#### FUNDING AWARDS

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- 2014-2018 National Science Foundation, DEB#1354739 and DEB#1354996, *Ant Diversity of the Meso-American Corridor (ADMAC)*, awarded to PIs John T. Longino and Philip S. Ward (**\$950,000** total) [I co-authored the pre- and full-proposals and am funded as a postdoc for 3 years].
- 2012-2014 Peter Buck Postdoctoral Research Award, Smithsonian Institution (**\$96,800**).
- 2010 Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard, Ernst Mayr Travel Grant (**\$1,180**).
- 2010 Graduate Student Travel Award, UC Davis (**\$1,000**).
- 2010 Center for Population Biology Travel Grant, UC Davis (**\$800**).
- 2008-2010 UCMEXUS Dissertation Research Grant (**\$12,000**).

- 2008 National Geographic Society, Young Explorer's Grant (**\$5,000**).
- 2008 Center for Population Biology Research Award, UC Davis (**\$1,041**).
- 2007-2013 National Science Foundation, DEB#0640015, *Leaf litter arthropods of Mesoamerica (LLAMA)*, awarded to PI John T. Longino at The Evergreen State College (**\$650,000**). [I co-authored the grant proposal and was funded for 5 years as a graduate student via a \$49,163 subcontract to co-PI Phil Ward at UC Davis].
- 2007 Organization for Tropical Studies Graduate Research Fellowship (**\$2,200**).
- 2006-2008 Jastro-Shields Research Award, UC Davis (**\$3,000**).
- 2005 Evergreen Foundation Research Award (**\$500**).
- 2004 National Science Foundation, Summer Systematics Institute, REU at California Academy of Sciences (**\$3,500**).

## PUBLICATIONS

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- MacGown, J. A., Schiefer, T. L., and **M. G. Branstetter**. 2015. First record of the genus *Leptanilloides* (Hymenoptera: Formicidae: Dorylinae) from the United States. *Zootaxa* 2:392-400. doi:<http://dx.doi.org/10.11646/zootaxa.4006.2.10>.
- Faircloth, B. C., **M. G. Branstetter**, N. D. White, and S. G. Brady. 2015. Target enrichment of ultraconserved elements from arthropods provides a genomic perspective on relationships among Hymenoptera. *Molecular Ecology Resources*. 15:489-501 doi:10.1111/1755-0998.12328.
- Longino, J. T., **M. G. Branstetter**, and R. K. Colwell. 2014. How ants drop out: ant abundance on tropical mountains. *PLoS ONE* 9(8): e104030. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0104030.
- Branstetter, M. G.** 2013. Revision of the Middle American clade of the ant genus *Stenamamma* Westwood (Hymenoptera, Formicidae, Myrmicinae). *ZooKeys* 295:1-277. doi:10.3897/zookeys.295.4905.
- Branstetter, M. G.** 2012. Origin and diversification of the cryptic ant genus *Stenamamma* Westwood (Hymenoptera: Formicidae), inferred from multilocus molecular data, biogeography, and natural history. *Systematic Entomology* 37: 478-496. doi:10.1111/j.1365-3113.2012.00624.x. [Won Best Paper Award for 2011-2012].
- Branstetter, M. G.** 2009. The ant genus *Stenamamma* Westwood (Hymenoptera: Formicidae) redefined, with a description of a new genus *Propodilobus*. *Zootaxa* 2221: 41-57.

## BOOK CHAPTERS AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS

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- Branstetter, M. G.**, and L. Sáenz. 2012. Las hormigas (Hymenoptera: Formicidae) de Guatemala. Pp. 221-268 in: Cano, E. B., and J. C. Schuster (eds). *Biodiversidad de Guatemala. Volumen 2*. Universidad del Valle de Guatemala, Guatemala, iv + 328 pp.

## SOCIETY AWARDS

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- 2011-2012 Best Paper Award, Systematic Entomology.
- 2008 President's Prize for best student talk, Entomological Society of America Annual Meeting.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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Teacher/Organizer: Workshop in Phylogeomic Methods, 10 days, 10 people, Univ. of Utah, Summer 2015.  
Field Team Leader: Ant Diversity of the MesoAmerican (ADMAC) project: Spring/Summer 2015.  
Teaching Assistant: Biodiversity and the Tree of Life Laboratory, UC Davis, Fall 2010.  
Teaching Assistant: Introduction to Evolution Discussion Section, UC Davis, Winter 2009.  
Teaching Assistant: Biodiversity, UC Davis, Fall 2007 & 2008.  
Guest Lecture: Ant Biodiversity in GE course on Biodiversity, UC Davis, Fall 2007-2009.  
Guest Lecture: Arachnophobia (movie and discussion) in grad student organized freshman seminar about insects and media, UC Davis, 2007 & 2008.  
Team leader/undergraduate mentor: four, two-month field expeditions to Central America for the Leaf Litter  
Field Team Leader: Leaf Litter Arthropods of Mesoamerica (LLAMA) project, Spring/Summer 2007-2011.

## PROFESSIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

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Manuscripts reviewed since 2006 (Total 20): Myrmecological News (3), PLoS ONE (3), Psyche (1), Systematic Entomology (2), Journal of Biogeography (2), ZooKeys (2), Zootaxa (4), Other (3).

2014 Judge, 10-minute student papers, Entomological Society of America Annual Meeting.  
2010-present Remote curator, AntWeb ([www.antweb.org](http://www.antweb.org)), hosted by California Academy of Sciences.  
2008-2009 Member, Seminar Committee, Department of Entomology, UC Davis.  
2007-2008 President, Society for Conservation Biology, Davis Chapter.  
2007-2008 President, Entomology Graduate Student Association.  
2008 Principal organizer, “10<sup>th</sup> Annual Bay Area Conservation Biology Symposium” held at UC Davis and hosted by the Society for Conservation Biology, Davis Chapter.  
2007 Principal organizer, “Biodiversity Blues Benefit Concert” charity. Over \$2,000 donated to the Amazon Conservation Association.  
2006-2007 Secretary, Society for Conservation Biology, Davis Chapter.  
2005-2007 Organizer and participant, Watch It Don't Squash It (WIDSI) outreach program, UC Davis.  
2005-2010 Organizer, Entomology exhibit at Picnic Day outreach event, UC Davis.

## FIELD EXPEDITIONS

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Countries visited outside USA to collect insects: **Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Colombia, Guyana.**

2015 Team leader, two-month expedition to Costa Rica for project ADMAC.  
2015 One-week ant collecting trip to Mexico for project ADMAC.  
2015 Two-week ant collecting trip to Panama for project ADMAC.  
2014 One-week ant collecting trip to Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, Colombia (self funded).  
2014 Two-week expedition to Guyana to collect ants as part of a Biodiversity Assessment Team (BAT) survey organized by WWF-Guianas and Global Wildlife Conservation.  
2014 Three-week expedition to Guyana to collect ants as part of a Biodiversity Assessment Team (BAT) survey organized by WWF-Guianas and Global Wildlife Conservation.  
2011 Team leader, two-month expedition to Nicaragua for project LLAMA.  
2010 One-week ant collecting trip to Mexican state of Baja California Sur for graduate research (self funded).

- 2010 Team leader, two-month expedition to Honduras for project LLAMA.
- 2009 Three-week ant collecting trip to Mexican states of Oaxaca, Querétaro, Tamaulipas, and Guadalajara for graduate research (UCMEXUS grant).
- 2009 Team leader, two-month trip to Guatemala for project LLAMA.
- 2008 Five-week ant collecting trip to Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua for graduate research (National Geographic grant).
- 2008 Team leader, two-month trip to Chiapas, Mexico for project LLAMA.
- 2007 Three-week collecting and planning trip to Chiapas, Mexico and Guatemala for project LLAMA.
- 2007 One-month trip to Costa Rica to collect ants and conduct behavioral experiments (OTS grant).

## PATRONYMS

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- Tylodinus branstetteri* Luna-Cozar *et al.* 2014 [Insecta: Coleoptera: Curculionidae].
- Costarina branstetteri* Platnick & Dupérré 2012 [Arachnida: Araneae: Oonopidae].
- Branstetocoris* spp. Brailovsky 2010 [Insecta: Hemiptera: Rhyparochromidae].
- Pheidole branstetteri* Longino 2007 [Insecta: Hymenoptera: Formicidae].

## PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES

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American Society of Naturalists  
 Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation  
 Entomological Society of America  
 International Society of Hymenopterists  
 International Union for the Study of Social Insects  
 Society of Systematic Biology  
 Society of Conservation Biology

## RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

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- Branstetter, M. G.** 2014. Applying phylogenomic methods to understand the evolutionary history of Mesoamerican ants. Congreso Colombiano de Zoología, Cartagena, Colombia. (Talk)
- Branstetter, M. G.**, B. C. Faircloth, B. N. Danforth, J. P. Pitts, P. S. Ward, & S. G. Brady. 2014. Ultraconserved elements provide new insights into the phylogeny and evolution of Hymenoptera. Entomological Society of America Annual Meeting, Portland, OR. (Talk)
- Branstetter, M. G.** 2014. Phylogenomics and comparative biogeography of two Mesoamerican ant genera. Entomological Society of America Annual Meeting, Portland, OR. (Talk).
- Branstetter, M. G.** 2013. Uncovering the origins of a Middle American ant radiation: insights from natural history, biogeography and molecular data. Invited talk at National Museum of Natural History, Washington, D.C.
- Branstetter, M. G.** 2013. Uncovering the origins of a Middle American ant radiation: insights from natural history, biogeography and molecular data. Invited talk at the University of California, Davis, CA.

- Branstetter, M. G.** 2012. Tales from the leaf litter: Project LLAMA and the systematics and natural history of Mesoamerican *Stenammas*. Invited talk for the Entomological Society of Washington, Washington, DC.
- Branstetter, M. G.** 2011. From low to high or high to low: an investigation into the evolutionary history of Mesoamerican *Stenammas* (Hymenoptera: Formicidae). Entomological Society of America Annual Meeting, Reno, NV. (Talk).
- Branstetter, M. G.,** R. S. Anderson, & J. T. Longino. 2010. Do ants explain litter weevil abundance and diversity? Complementary patterns in the Neotropics. Entomological Society of America Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA (Talk).
- Branstetter, M. G.** 2010. Systematics and evolution of Mesoamerican *Stenammas*: a new perspective on a temperate ant genus. International Union for the Study of Social Insects, Copenhagen, Denmark. (Poster).
- Branstetter, M. G.** 2009. Taxonomy, phylogeny, and natural history of the ant genus *Stenammas*. Invited talk at Universidad Autónoma de Querétaro. [In Spanish].
- Branstetter, M. G.** 2008. Phylogeny and biogeography of the ant genus *Stenammas*: Uncovering the evolutionary origins of Mesoamerican taxa. Entomological Society of America Annual Meeting, Reno, NV. (Talk) **[Winner of the President's Prize]**.
- Branstetter, M. G.** 2007. When trouble comes a knock'n: Why the "capadoccian ants" *Stenammas alas* and *S. expositum* close the door. Entomological Society of American Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA. (Talk).
- Branstetter, M. G.** 2007. Biogeography of the ant genus *Stenammas*: Determining the position of Mesoamerican taxa. Pacific Branch Entomological Society of America Meeting, Portland, OR. (Poster).
- Branstetter, M. G.** 2006. Biogeography of the ant genus *Stenammas*. International Union for the Study of Social Insects, Washington, D.C. (Poster).
- Branstetter, M. G.** 2005. Wing-clipping behavior and its relationship to central place foraging in the ant *Pachycondyla apicalis* (Formicidae, Ponerinae). Society of Integrative and Comparative Biology Annual Meeting in San Diego, CA. (Talk).
- Branstetter, M. G.** 2005. Oil-collecting structures of the South African bee genus *Rediviva* (Hymenoptera, Mellitidae): An investigation using scanning electron microscopy. Society of Integrative and Comparative Biology Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA. (Poster).