

Gianpiero Fiorentino

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Candidate in Ecology and Evolution – New Jersey Institute of Technology/Rutgers-Newark (USA)
2020 – expected 2025
Advisor: Phillip Barden, Ph.D.

B.Sc. in Biological Sciences – Universidad Nacional de Colombia (UNAL)
2014-2019
Advisor: Fernando Fernandez, Ph.D.

PUBLICATIONS

Fiorentino, G., Lattke, J., Troya, A. Sosiak, C., Dong, M., Barden, P. 2023. Deep time extinction of largest insular ant predators and the first fossil *Neoponera* (Formicidae: Ponerinae) from Miocene age Dominican amber. *BMC Biol* **21**, 26. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12915-022-01488-9>

Sawh, I., Bae, E., Camilo, L., Lanan, M., Lucky, A., Menezes, H.M., **Fiorentino, G.**, Sosiak, C., Khadempour, L. and Barden, P., 2022. The first fossil replete ant worker establishes living food storage in the Eocene. *bioRxiv*, pp.2022-12. <https://doi.org/10.1101/2022.12.15.520604>

Fiorentino, G., Tocora, M. C., & Ramirez, S. 2022. A new species of *Metopiellus* (Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Pselaphinae) from the northern Colombian Amazon. *ZooKeys*, *1108*, 1-9. <https://doi.org/10.3897/zookeys.1108.76077>

Fiorentino, G., Tocora, M. C., & Fernández, F. 2022. A new species of small myrmicine ant in the genus *Eurhopalothrix* Brown & Kempf, 1961 (Hymenoptera: Formicidae) from Colombia. *Revista Colombiana de Entomología*, *48*(1). <https://doi.org/10.25100/socolen.v48i1.11484>

García, E. I., Tocora, M. C., **Fiorentino, G.**, Escárraga, M. E., Fernández, F., & Guerrero, R. J. 2020. New records of ants (Hymenoptera: Formicidae) for Colombia. *Biota Neotropica*, *20*. <https://doi.org/10.1590/1676-0611-BN-2020-1088>

Tocora, M.C., **Fiorentino, G** & Fernández, F. 2020. Strepsiptera from Colombia: First Record Of The Genus *Strichotrema* Hofeneder (Myrmecolacidae) And A New Host-Parasitoid Association With *Megalomyrmex cyendyra* (Hymenoptera: Formicidae). *Zootaxa* *4728* (2): 266–274. doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.11646/zootaxa.4728.2.7>

GRANTS & FUNDING

2016 Convocatoria Nacional de Proyectos Para El Fortalecimiento De La Investigación, Creación E Innovación De La Universidad Nacional De Colombia 2016-2018, **\$10250** [I contributed to the writing of the proposal and was funded as an undergraduate researcher, designated by name in the proposal, for two years]
"Riqueza Y Abundancia de Arácnidos Y Miriápodos de los Bosques Húmedos del Chocó Biogeográfico de Colombia".

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Graduate teaching assistant □ Foundations of Ecology and Evolution, New Jersey Institute of Technology (USA) (x3) 2021-2022

Led labs; wrote and graded quizzes; guided student development of experiments and graded reports; proctored lecture exams; answered student questions during office hours.

Graduate teaching assistant □ Behavioral Ecology, New Jersey Institute of Technology (USA) - Summer 2022

Wrote and graded quizzes and assisted in writing exams; proctored lecture exams; answered student questions during office hours.

Graduate teaching assistant □ Genetics, New Jersey Institute of Technology (USA) Fall 2020

Wrote and graded quizzes and assisted in writing exams; proctored lecture exams; answered student questions during office hours.

Teaching assistant □ Arthropod Biology, Universidad Nacional de Colombia (Colombia) 2018 - 2019

Led labs; helped write and grade laboratory exams; proctored lab exams; guided students in developing practical field and laboratory skills.

Teaching assistant □ Evolutionary Biology, Universidad Nacional de Colombia (Colombia) Fall 2019

Wrote and graded quizzes and assisted in writing exams; proctored lecture exams; answered student questions during office hours.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant □ Escuela Superior Politecnica de Chimborazo (ESPOCH). 2021 – Ongoing

Assisted in developing and carrying out the project "Baseline study of introduced and invasive ants (Hymenoptera: Formicidae) in the Galapagos Islands"; assisted in developing and writing reports and manuscripts.

Editor □ Revista Colombiana de Entomología, Sociedad Colombiana de Entomología 2019 – 2021

English Language reviewer and digitization of historical works (35- 40 manuscripts per year since 1973)

Undergraduate Assistant Curator □ Instituto de Ciencias Naturales, UNAL: Bogotá (Colombia) 2017 - 2020

Database management, taxonomic identification and general curatorship of the Arachnological and the Myrmecological collections.

Research assistant □ "Insects of Colombia" Research Group 2018 – 2021

Assisted in developing and carrying out multiple projects focused on the study of the diversity of native ant species of Colombia. Supervised and trained undergraduate students; assisted in developing and writing reports and manuscripts.

Visiting curator □ **Biodiversity Center, Entomological Collection, UT: Austin (USA)** **January 2023**
Curated collection of approximately 5000 ant specimens from the Galapagos islands; identified and organized systematically.

Visiting curator □ **Insect Collection Charles Darwin Research Station, ICCDRS: Galapagos (Ecuador)** **2019 – 2020**
Curated collection of approximately 34,000 ant specimens; identified and organized samples from 2000 onward systematically

Visiting curator □ **Instituto Alexander von Humboldt: Villa de Leyva (Colombia)** **2019 – 2020**
Curated collection of approximately 30000 ant specimens; identified and organized them systematically

Visiting curator □ **Museo Javeriano de Historia Natural Lorenzo Uribe S.J., Pontificia Universidad Javeriana: Bogotá D.C. (Colombia)** **2019 – 2020**
Curated collection of approximately 25,000 ant specimens; identified and organized them systematically.

Visiting curator □ **Colección de Artrópodos Terrestres de la Amazonia Colombiana (CATAC), Instituto de Investigaciones Amazónicas SINCHI: Leticia (Colombia)** **2018 – 2019**
Curated collection of approximately 10000 ant specimens; identified and organized them systematically

PRESENTATIONS & PUBLISHED ABSTRACTS

Talks

Fiorentino, G., Herrera, H.W., Fernandez, F., Barden, P. 2022. How do Invasive Species affect Island Ant Communities? Charles Darwin Research Station Charlas Cientificas! Galapagos, Ecuador. Invited Talk.

Fiorentino, G., Barden, P. 2022. Deep time extinction of largest insular ant predators and the first fossil *Neoponera* (Formicidae: Ponerinae) from Miocene age Dominican amber. Society for the Study of Evolution, conference conducted online.

Fiorentino, G., Barden, P. 2022. Local extinction in large island predators and the first fossil ant in the genus *Neoponera* (Formicidae: Ponerinae) from Miocene age Dominican amber. Social Insects in the Northeast Region Conference (SINNERS), Newark, New Jersey.

Fiorentino, G., Barden, P. 2021. The first fossil tiger ant of the genus *Neoponera* (Ponerinae: Formicidae). Entomological Society of America Annual Meeting, Denver, Colorado.

María C. Tocora, **G. Fiorentino**, A. D. Meneses, L. Pérez-Pedraza, E. Sanabria, L. Castillo, S. Ramírez, N. Sastoque, F. Fernández. 2020. Safeguarding The Colombian Ant Diversity: The ICN Ant Collection: perspectives and challenges. Primer Simposio Iberoamericano de Mirmecología. Editorial Unimagdalena. No. of pages: 1. 5.

Posters

Fiorentino, G. Cala-Riquelme, F. Florez, A. 2019. Z4-Aproximación a la Diversidad de Arácnidos Y Miriápodos del Chocó Colombiano Con Énfasis En Opiliones. V Congreso Colombiano de Zoología. Asociación Colombiana de Zoología. Bogotá, Colombia

Fiorentino, G. Florez, A. 2019. Aporte Preliminar a la Fauna De Opiliones (Arachnida) del Chocó Biogeográfico De Colombia. Memorias Congreso Colombiano de Entomología. Santiago de Cali, Colombia.

Fiorentino G, Tocora M.C., Castro D, Barden P, Fernández F. 2020. Gazing Into the Colombian Amazon AntDiversity: Advances and perspectives in a war-torn country. Entomological Society of America (ESA).

VOLUNTEERING, SCIENCE COMMUNICATION & OUTREACH

NJIT – Rutgers Newark BioBlitz □ Newark, New Jersey (USA) **2021**

Worked with an invertebrate research team as the forest floor invertebrate specialist; collaborated with the public to collect insects over a 6-hour period on the NJIT-Rutgers Newark campus to catalogue the biodiversity present on campus.

Co-founder of the “Neotropical Ants Study Group” (GEHN) **2019 – Ongoing**

Study group composed of Latin-American myrmecologists focused on science communication and outreach of myrmecological studies. We organize weekly presentations and coordinate social media across various platforms (Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, Youtube, TikTok).

Organizer for the Symposium “Primer Simposio Iberoamericano de Mirmecologia” **2020**

Worked on coordinating speakers, reviewing abstracts and editorial work on the book of abstracts for the symposium “Primer Simposio Iberoamericano de Mirmecologia”. The event was held over over a 4-day period in virtual format. The main goal of the symposium was to build ties between different research groups around the world, giving visibility to new researchers, and motivating the general public about the study of ants in these regions.

Ant workshop - Ants of Vaupés □ Universidad Nacional de Colombia (Colombia). **2020**

Outreach with various indigenous tribes of the Northern Amazon of Colombia (Mitú, Vaupés).

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Certificate in Effective Instruction □ Association of College and University Educators (ACUE) **2021**

Completion of a 25-module course in effective teaching practices requiring the implementation of evidence-based instructional approaches. The credential is co-issued by the American Council on Education and distinguishes faculty for their commitment to educational excellence and student success.

Advanced Theory & Practice of Teaching □ Rutgers Newark, Newark, New Jersey (USA) **2021**

Developed skills in leading classes, active learning techniques, as well as skills in designing college-level courses and class sessions; Developed a teaching philosophy and a teaching portfolio.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Entomological Society of America

Society for the Study of Evolution

Sociedad Entomológica de Colombia

Asociación Colombiana de Zoología