

**Whitney R. Harris World Ecology Center**

**News**

Dr. [Aimee Sue Dunlap](#) will join the [Department of Biology](#) as an Assistant Professor in Animal Behavior. Aimee is currently a post-doctoral research associate with the Center for Insect Sciences and the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of Arizona.

[Diego Salazar](#) (Ph.D. candidate and Christensen Fellow; Advisor: Dr. [Robert Marquis](#)) has been awarded a dissertation improvement grant (\$15,000) from the National Science Foundation for: *The effect of plant phylogenetic and chemical diversity on herbivore community structure and plant host herbivore damage*.

Dr. [Patricia Parker](#) has been elected as a Governing Member of the [Charles Darwin Foundation](#). This honor recognizes her sustained commitment to working with the CDF and the [Galapagos National Park](#) to understand and seek mitigation for disease threats to Galapagos wildlife. The CDF is an international foundation, headquartered in Belgium, that is responsible for overseeing all activities and priority-setting for the Foundation's commitment to understanding, preserving and conserving the Galapagos Islands.

Dr. [Nicholas Barber](#) (Ph.D. 2009) has been appointed as a Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of Biological Sciences at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, Illinois.

Dr. [Teresa Feria](#) (Ph.D. 2007) has been appointed Vice-President of CIPAMEX, a Mexican organization for the preservation and study of birds. She also received the 2011 Provost Award for International Studies from the University of Texas-Pan American.

**Publications**

Baker-Meio, B. and [Marquis, R.J.](#) (2011). Context-dependent benefits from ant-plant mutualism in three sympatric varieties of *Chamaecrista desvauxii*. *Journal of Ecology* 100: 242-252.  
doi: [10.1111/j.1365-2745.2011.01892.x](https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1365-2745.2011.01892.x).

[Marquis R.J.](#), [Ricklefs, R.E.](#) and [Abdala-Roberts L.](#) (2012). Testing the low latitude/high defense hypothesis for broad-leaved tree species. *Oecologia* doi: [10.1007/s00442-012-2249-4](https://doi.org/10.1007/s00442-012-2249-4).

[Osborne, Patrick L.](#) (2012) [Tropical Ecosystems and Ecological Concepts](#). Second Edition. Cambridge University Press. 536 pp.

This introductory textbook provides a comprehensive guide to the major tropical biomes. It is unique in its balanced coverage of both aquatic and terrestrial systems and in its international scope. Each chapter is built around a particular tropical ecosystem, with descriptive case studies

providing a framework around which ecological concepts and applied ecological topics are presented. This second edition has been thoroughly updated to reflect recent advances in the field and includes a greater focus on the impact of global climate change.

[Ricklefs, R.E.](#), and Marquis, R.J. (2012). Species richness and niche space for temperate and tropical folivores. *Oecologia* 168: 213-220. doi: [10.1007/s00442-011-2079-9](https://doi.org/10.1007/s00442-011-2079-9).

[Ricklefs, R.E.](#) and Renner, S.S. (2012). Global correlations in tropical tree species richness and abundance reject neutrality. *Science* 335 (6067): 464.  
doi: [10.1126/science.1215182](https://doi.org/10.1126/science.1215182)

A census of trees in rainforests on three continents has confirmed that competition plays a central role in structuring communities. This contradicts the so-called neutral theory in ecology, which views random fluctuations as the decisive factor.

See news report: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2012/01/120126142939.htm>

[Sari, E.H.R.](#) and [Parker, P.G.](#) (2012). Understanding the colonization history of the Galápagos flycatcher (*Myiarchus magnirostris*). *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution*.  
doi: [10.1016/j.ympev.2011.10.023](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ympev.2011.10.023).

The Galápagos Flycatchers' (*Myiarchus magnirostris*) closest relative is *Myiarchus tyrannulus* (brown-crested flycatcher) from Central and North America. These two species diverged approximately 850,000 years ago and the Galápagos flycatchers show evidence of demographic expansion, resultant from its recent colonization of the Galápagos. The Galápagos flycatcher is among the least studied Galápagos terrestrial bird species, and this information is essential to assess the evolutionary processes that underlie its speciation.

## Organization for Tropical Studies

**Pagi Toko** (Papua New Guinea) and **Christina Baer** are in Costa Rica enrolled in the 8-week long Tropical Biology course that is run by the [Organization for Tropical Studies](#).

## Upcoming events

### [2012 Jane and Whitney Harris Lecture](#)

Dr. [Peter Kareiva](#), Chief Scientist, The Nature Conservancy

*Towards a new conservation: Strange bedfellows, broadening the constituency, and rejecting false metaphors*

7:30 p.m., Tuesday April 3, 2012

Shoenberg Auditorium, Ridgway Center, Missouri Botanical Garden, 4344 Shaw Boulevard.

This event is FREE and open to the public.

### [Consilience Conference](#)

Top researchers will come together this spring to explore evolution in biology, the human sciences and the humanities. [Edward O. Wilson](#), a Pulitzer Prize-winning author, will give the keynote address.

April 26-28, 2012, J.C. Penney Building/Conference Center, University of Missouri-St. Louis.