

MELISSA WHITMAN

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EDUCATION

- 2011 - Present Ph.D. Student, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. Advisor: Dr. S.E. Russo. University of Nebraska-Lincoln.
- 2005 B.A., Interdisciplinary emphasis on ecology, geography, and conservation biology. Western Washington University.

POSITIONS

- 2011 Climate Change Cartographer. USDA Forest Service Pacific Northwest Research Lab/TetraTech/Climate Impacts Group, University of Washington.
- 2009 – 2010 Research Assistant (GIS Analyst). Integrated Landscape Assessment Project, Oregon State University/Portland State University.
- 2006 – 2008 GIS Analyst. Habitat Conservation Plan, Washington State Department of Natural Resources.
- 2006 Intern to Dr. D.E. Weller. Ecological Modeling Lab, Smithsonian Environmental Research Center.
- 2005 – 2006 Technician. Institute for Watershed Studies, Western Washington University.
- 2005 Intern to Dr. J.D. Ackerman. Orchid Ecology Study, Luquillo Experimental Forest, University of Puerto Rico.
- 2004 Research Assistant to Y. Bar-Ness. Canopy Arthropod Biodiversity Study, Warra Forest Research Site, Forestry Tasmania/University of Tasmania.
- 2003 – 2004 Research Assistant to Dr. E. Rabakonandrianina. Conservation and Pollination Biology of Angraecoid Orchids. University of Antananarivo, Madagascar.
- 2003 Research Assistant to L.A. Rene de Roland. Peregrine Fund, Madagascar.

TRAINING

- 2008 Pan-American Advanced Studies Institute. Cyberinfrastructure for International Collaborative Biodiversity and Ecological Informatic. NSF Funded.

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

- Whitman, M.**, M. Medler, J.J. Randriamanindry, & E. Rabakonandrianina. 2011. Conservation of Madagascar's granite outcrop orchids, the influence of fire and moisture. *Lankesteriana International Journal on Orchidology*. 11(1):55-67.
- Bar-Ness, Y.D., P.B. McQuillan, M. **Whitman**, R. Junker, M. Cracknell & A. Barrows. 2011. Sampling forest canopy arthropod biodiversity with three novel trap designs. *Australian Journal of Entomology*. DOI: 10.1111/j.1440-6055.2011.00836.x.

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

Whitman, M., M. Medler, J.J. Randriamanindry & E. Rabakonandrianina. 2005. Fire Impact on Terrestrial and Epilithic Orchids, a Case Study from a Madagascar Inselberg (Granite Outcrop). Proceedings of the 18th World Orchid Conference, Dijon, France.

PRESENTATIONS

Whitman, M. & J. Kagan. 2011. Translating and unifying landscape management intent across ownership boundaries: applications for modeling and conservation planning. International Association for Landscape Ecology. Oral Presentation.

Whitman, M. 2008. Development of a Landscape Scale Matrix for Prioritizing Aquatic Conservation Sites. PASI Ecoinformatics training, Costa Rica. Oral Presentation.

Whitman, M., M. Medler, J.J. Randriamanindry, & E. Rabakonandrianina. 2005. Fire Impact on Terrestrial and Epilithic Orchids, a Case Study from a Madagascar Inselberg (Granite Outcrop). Sigma Xi Annual Meeting and International Research Conference. Poster Presentation.
18th World Orchid Conference. Poster Presentation.
Consortium for Innovative Environments in Learning Symposium. Oral Presentation.

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND SCHOLARSHIPS

- National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship. 2010 – Present.
- Adventure Learning Grant Recipient, Fairhaven College, WWU. \$15,000 for a year of research in Madagascar. 2003.
- Northwest Orchid Society Research Grant, \$500. 2003.
- Milotte Scholarship full tuition award for two consecutive years. 2001, 2002.

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Sigma Xi Scientific Research Society. First Place Award of Excellence in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology for poster presentation. Seattle, Washington. 2005.
- 18th World Orchid Conference. Third Place Award for poster presentation. Dijon, France. 2005.
- Featured student in the annual President's Report for WWU. 2005.
- Invited participant in the Dialog on Diversity Symposium, University of Hawaii. 2002.
- Nominated student participant for the Carnegie Academy for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (CASTL) Leadership from the Inside-Out program. 2000.

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- Ecological Society of America Student Section. 2009 to present.
- International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Orchid Specialist Group Early Career Committee. 2005 to present.

GRANT COMMITTEES

- Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund Committee for Land Acquisition. 2007.
- Fairhaven College Adventure Learning Grant Committee. 2007 & 2005.