
YAKSHI ORTIZ-MALDONADO

Department of Biology
PO Box 23360
University of Puerto Rico-RP
San Juan, Puerto Rico, 00931-3360

phone (cel): (787) 432-2064
phone (office): (787) 764-0000 x 4882
e-mail: yakshi.ortiz@upr.edu

EDUCATION

M.Sc. Biology - Concentration in Microbiology and Ecology. University of Puerto Rico-Rio Piedras, PR. Advisor: Carla Restrepo. August 2014 – (Expected graduation: May 2018)
B.Sc. Biology - Concentration in Cellular-Molecular Biology. University of Puerto Rico-Rio Piedras, PR. 2009 - 2014.

AWARDS, SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

PR NASA Space Grant Fellowship – Graduate Fellowship of the NASA Puerto Rico Space Grant Consortium, University of Puerto Rico-Rio Piedras. 2017
Bridge-to-the-Doctorate Fellowship - Graduate Fellowship of the Puerto Rico Louis Stokes, Alliance for Minority Participation, University of Puerto Rico-Rio Piedras. 2015.
Gustavo Candelas Award - Undergraduate Research in Ecology Award. Department of Biology, University of Puerto Rico-Rio Piedras. 2015.
Organization for Tropical Studies Scholarship to participate in the Semester Abroad in Costa Rica - Tropical Biology on a Changing Planet course. 2013.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Graduate Research Assistant, “The rhizosphere microbiome of *Tabebuia heterophylla*, a morphologically variable tropical tree native to Puerto Rico” (F. Godoy-Vitorino, PI), Microbial Ecology and Genomics Lab, Inter American University of Puerto Rico, Metropolitan Campus. 2014.
Undergraduate Research Assistant, “Estimating wood specific gravity through a rehydration process” (C. Restrepo, PI), Department of Biology, University of Puerto Rico-Rio Piedras. 2012-2014.
Undergraduate Research Assistant, “Networks and the resilience of vine invaded tropical landscapes” (D. Delgado), Department of Biology, University of Puerto Rico-Rio Piedras. Spring 2012.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Graduate Teaching Assistant for General Biology Laboratory (BIOL-3102), University of Puerto Rico-Rio Piedras, Spring 2017, Fall 2014.
Graduate Teaching Assistant for Microbiology Laboratory (BIOL-3705), University of Puerto Rico-Rio Piedras, Fall 2016.
Graduate Teaching Assistant for Botany Laboratory (BIOL-3410), University of Puerto Rico-Rio Piedras, Spring 2015.
Undergraduate Tutor for Chemistry, University of Puerto Rico-Rio Piedras, Fall 2010.

OTHER EXPERIENCE

Graduate Assistant. NSF-Summer Research Experience for Undergraduates in Molecular Biosciences. (M. Colon, Director). University of Puerto Rico-Rio Piedras. Summer 2014.

PUBLICATIONS

Ortiz, Y., A. Rodríguez, T. Glavina, E. Santiago, E. Kirton, S. G. Tringe, F. Godoy-Vitorino. *in prep*. The rhizosphere microbiome of *Tabebuia heterophylla*, a morphologically variable tropical tree native to Puerto Rico.
Ortiz, Y. and C. Restrepo. *in prep*. Variation of wood specific gravity along a complex environmental gradient in the Sierra de Las Minas of Guatemala.

PRESENTATIONS

Ortiz, Y., F. Godoy-Vitorino, C. Restrepo. 2016. Landsliding and rhizobiota link the short- and long-term carbon cycles: A metagenomics approach. Forward Research and Innovation Summit of the Puerto Rico Science Technology and Research Trust, San Juan, Puerto Rico. [poster]

- Ortiz, Y.**, N. Santiago, E. Navarro, C. Restrepo. 2016. Testing a protocol for soil elemental analyses using X-ray fluorescence spectroscopy. 35th Puerto Rico Interdisciplinary Scientific Meeting and the 50th Junior Technical Meeting at Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico, Ponce. [poster]
- Santiago, N. [speaker], D. Delgado, **Y. Ortiz**, C. Restrepo. 2016. Using the leaf “ionome” to distinguish functional groups of vines in Puerto Rico. 35th Puerto Rico Interdisciplinary Scientific Meeting and the 50th Junior Technical Meeting at Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico, Ponce. [oral]
- Ortiz, Y.**, A. Rodriguez, C. Restrepo, T. Glavina, E. Kirton, E. Santiago, S. Tringe and F. Godoy-Vitorino. 2015. The rhizosphere microbiome of *Tabebuia heterophylla*, a morphologically variable tropical tree native to Puerto Rico. 4th Symposium of the Sociedad de Microbiólogos de Puerto Rico at University of Puerto Rico, Cayey. [oral]
- Ortiz, Y.**, H. Herrera, J. Fabre, T. Glavina, E. Santiago, E. Kirton, S. G. Tringe, F. Godoy-Vitorino. 2015. High-throughput Metagenomic analyses of microbial communities associated with the tropical tree *Tabebuia heterophylla*. 115th General Meeting of the American Society for Microbiology. New Orleans, Louisiana, USA. [poster]
- Ortiz, Y.**, H. Herrera, J. Fabre, T. Glavina, E. Santiago, E. Kirton, S. G. Tringe, F. Godoy-Vitorino. 2015. Metagenomic analyses of microbial communities associated with the tropical tree *Tabebuia heterophylla*. 8th Symposium Frontiers in Environmental Microbiology at Universidad del Turabo, Gurabo, Puerto Rico. [poster]
- Ortiz, Y.** and C. Restrepo. 2014. Rehydration protocol for estimating wood specific gravity from air dried tree cores. 34th Puerto Rico Interdisciplinary Scientific Meeting and the 49th Junior Technical Meeting at University of Puerto Rico, Cayey. [oral]

SOCIETY MEMBERSHIPS

Capítulo Estudiantil de Microbiología- UPRRP
American Society of Microbiology

Sociedad de Microbiólogos de Puerto Rico
Ecological Society of America

COURSES

Organization for Tropical Studies, Semester Abroad in Costa Rica - Tropical Biology on a Changing Planet.
Duke University. Spring 2013.

SERVICE

- Master’s student representative, Graduate Committee, Biology Department, University of Puerto Rico-Rio Piedras, PR. 2016-2017.
- Committee assessor, Biology Graduate Student Association, University of Puerto Rico-Rio Piedras, PR. 2015
- Moderator of poster presentations, 3th Symposium of the Sociedad de Microbiólogos de Puerto Rico at University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez. 2014.
- Voluntary, Sapó Concho Conservation Project (R. Cáceres, PhD Student), Guánica Dry Forest. 2013-2014.

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

- Microbial Genomics and Metagenomics Workshop. Joint Genome Institute, Department of Energy. Walnut Creek, California. 2016
- Restriction Site Associated DNA (RAD) Markers: A Cost Effective Genome Wide Sequencing Approach Workshop, Puerto Rico IDeA Network Biomedical Research Excellence (PRINBRE), University of Puerto Rico-Rio Piedras, PR. 2016

SKILLS

- Knowledge of Qiime (software for analysis of microbial communities).
- Knowledge of R and S-Plus for statistical analysis.