

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH
ELVIA J. MELÉNDEZ-ACKERMAN

Environmental Sciences, University of Puerto Rico at Río
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PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION

University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras.	Biology	B. S. 1984-1987
University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras	Biology	M. S. 1987-1990
University of California, Irvine	Ecology	Ph.D. 1990-1995

APPOINTMENTS

1) Full professor – Environmental Sciences, University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus (July, 2006 – Present), 2) Interim Director, Institute for Tropical Ecosystem Studies, University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus (January 2006 – 2010); 2); 3) Special Appointment – Department of Terrestrial and Atmospheric Sciences – Purdue University (2005-2009); 4) 2002-2007- Director Species and Population Management Cluster (Subgroup II) – Center for Applied Tropical Ecology and Conservation, 5) - Associate Professor, Institute for Tropical Ecosystem Studies, University of Puerto Rico- Río Piedras; 6) (June 2000- 2006); 7) -Director El Verde Field Station, Institute for Tropical Ecosystem Studies, University of Puerto Rico- Río Piedras (June 1996 – June 2000), 8) -Assistant Professor, Institute for Tropical Ecosystem Studies, University of Puerto Rico- Río Piedras (June 1996 – June 2000), 9) Assistant Professor Department of Biology, University of Puerto Rico-Humacao –(Jan 1996-June 1996)

5 SIGNIFICANT PRODUCTS (TOTAL PUBLICATIONS 66)

-Vila Ruiz, C.P., Shear, T.H., Warren, S., Flores Mangual, M.L., and **Meléndez-Ackerman, E.J.** 2018. A socio-ecological assessment of the potential for vegetable gardens in elementary schools across an urban tropical watershed in Puerto Rico. *Cities and the Environment (CATE)*. : 11 (1), Article 2

-**Elvia J. Meléndez-Ackerman** *, Christopher J. Nytech, Luis E. Santiago-Acevedo, Julio C. Verdejo-Ortiz, Raúl Santiago Bartolomei, Luis E. Ramos-Santiago, Tischa A. Muñoz-Erickson. 2016. Synthesis of Household Yard Area Dynamics in the City of San Juan Using Multi-Scalar Social-Ecological Perspectives *Sustainability* 8(5), 481

-Tischa A. Muñoz-Erickson, Ariel E. Lugo, **E. J. Meléndez-Ackerman**, Luis E. Santiago-Acevedo, José Seguinot-Barbosa, Pablo Méndez-Lázaro et al. 2014. "Knowledge to Serve the City: Insights from an Emerging Knowledge-Action Network to Address Vulnerability and Sustainability in San Juan, Puerto Rico" *Cities and the Environment*. 7(1)" Article 5

-**Melendez-Ackerman, E.J.** R. Santiago-Bartolomei, C. Vila-Ruiz*, L. Santiago, D. García-Montiel, J. Verdejo Ortiz, H. Manrique-Hernandez, E. Hernandez-Calo. Socio-economic drivers of yard sustainable practices in a tropical city. *Ecology and Society* 19(3):20.

-Garcia-Montiel, D. C., J. C. Verdejo-Ortiz, R. Santiago-Bartolomei, C. P. Vila-Ruiz, L. Santiago, **and E. J. Melendez-Ackerman**. 2014. Food sources and accessibility and waste disposal patterns across an urban tropical watershed: implications for the flow of materials and energy. *Ecology and Society* 19(1): 37.

FIVE OTHER SIGNIFICANT PRODUCTS

Christopher J. Nytech, **Elvia Meléndez-Ackerman**, Jorge Ortiz-Zayas, María Egleé. 2018. Rainfall interception by six urban trees in San Juan, Puerto Rico. *Urban Ecosystems* DOI: 10.1007/s11252-018-0768-4

-Torres-Camacho, K.A., **Meléndez-Ackerman, E.J.**, Díaz, E. et al. 2016. Intrinsic and extrinsic drivers of yard vegetation in urban residential areas: implications for conservation planning. *Urban Ecosystems* 1-11. doi:10.1007/s11252-016-0602-9.

-Santiago, L. E., J. C. Verdejo Ortiz, R. Santiago-Bartolomei, **E. J. Melendez-Ackerman**, and D. C. Garcia-Montiel. 2014. Uneven access and underuse of ecological amenities in urban parks of the Río Piedras watershed. *Ecology and Society* 19(1): 26.

-Rojas-Sandoval and J., **E. J. Meléndez**. 2016. Assessing the impact of grass invasions on the population dynamics of a threatened Caribbean dry forest cactus. *Biological Conservation* 196: 156-164. 21

-Rojas-Sandoval J. and **E. Meléndez-Ackerman**. 2013. Population dynamics of a threatened cactus species: general assessment and effects of matrix dimensionality. *Population Ecology* 55: 479-491.

SYNERGISTIC ACTIVITIES

-Executive Committee San Juan ULTRA (2010-Present)

-BOD NGO Amigos del Yunque (2010-Present) – Chair of BOD since Jan 2018

-Member of the Advisory Committee for Academic Diversity Organization for Tropical Studies

- Faculty mentor AKKA SEEDS Ecology Chapter, University of PR-Río Piedras (Jan 2007-Present). SEEDS is the umbrella for student chapters sponsored by the Ecological Society of America.

-City of San Juan and San Juan-ULTRA joint commission on Green Infrastructure (2014-2016).

-Co-PI NSF-CREST Center for Applied tropical Ecology and Conservation I and II at UPR Río Piedras

- Advisory Committee for Academic Diversity for the Organization for Tropical Studies (2001-2010)

- 185 PRESENTATIONS since 2000

- \$7.30 M in external funding since 1996

THESIS ADVISORS:

Diane R. Campbell, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of California at Irvine (Ph.D); James D. Ackerman Department of Biology, University of Puerto Rico-Río Piedras (MSc).

TOTAL STUDENTS ADVISED: Graduated:3 PhD, 3 MSc, 108 BSc, and current: 8PhD, 1MSc: 4BSc

TOTAL STUDENTS MENTORED: 126

COLLABORATORS BY AFFILIATION:

University of Puerto Rico-Río Piedras: Elvira Cuevas , Diana García, Jorge Ortiz, Luis Santiago, José Seguinot, Raúl Santiago, Liz Diaz, Mei Yu, A. , **University of Puerto Rico-Humacao** (Raymond Tremblay, Denny Fernandez), **UPR-Mayaguez:** Mario Flores Mangual, Jose Carlos Verle-Rodrigues, Marla Pérez-Lugo, Cecilio Ortiz. **UPR-RCM:** José Seguinot-Barbosa, Pablo Méndez; **DNER-PR,** Nilda Jiménez. **IITF-USFS:** Ariel Lugo, Ernesto Medina, Eileen Elmer, Olga Ramos, Tischa Muñoz, Kevin Carling, Gerald Bauer, Humfredo Marcano, **USFW:** Omar Monsegur, Jose Cruz, Miguel García, **ASU:** Enrique Vivoni, **Baltimore Urban Field Station US Forest Service:** Morgan Grove; **Duke University:** William A Darity, Gwen Wright, **NC State:** Theodore Shear, **UF-Gainesville:** Miguel Acevedo **UVM:** Torres, Jarlath O’Neil-Dunne, Kimberly Wallin, **Postdoctoral Advisee:** Julissa Rojas (NMNH-Smithsonian); **Graduate Students Graduate; UPR.Río Piedras:** Julissa Rojas (PhD-graduated*) Jose Fumero (Ph.D), Mervin Perez (Ph.D-Graduated*), Sofia Olivero (Ph.D), Chris Nycht (PhD-Graduated*), Ana Trujillo (PhD), Molly Ramsey (PhD), Digna Rivera (PhD, Irma Cabrera (PhD), Rayza Hernandez (MSc). Hana Lopez (MSc-Graduated*), Colibrí Sanfiorenzo (MSc), Charito Orenge (MSc), Paola Olaya (MSc-graduated*), Jose Fumero (MSc-graduated*, currently a PhD student at UPRRP).