

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH - DANIELA F. CUSACK

CURRENT POSITION

Doctoral Candidate, Whendee Silver lab
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GENERAL INFORMATION

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EDUCATION: Master's of Environmental Science (2003) Yale University, New Haven, CT.
B.A. Latin American Studies (Hons.) (1999) Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT.

RESEARCH AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

2002 Teaching Assistant, Introduction to Soil Science and Plant Identification. School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, Yale University, New Haven, CT.
2001-2002 Translator of Scientific Articles (Spanish to English) for Florencia Montagnini, School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, Yale University, New Haven, CT.
2000 Field Assistant, The Nature Conservancy, Costa Rica.

RESEARCH FOCUS: My research is in biogeochemistry, ecosystem science and tropical ecology, with an emphasis on global change. I am currently focused on the effects of nitrogen deposition on carbon dynamics in terrestrial ecosystems. The impact of nitrogen deposition on biological nitrogen fixation is another area of interest. Continuing research includes reforestation efforts and recruitment of understory plant biodiversity, and the social and environmental effects of ecological tourism.

SYNERGISTIC ACTIVITIES AND RECOGNITION:

- Berkeley Atmospheric Science Center (BASC) Fellowship, 2006-2008.
- National Science Foundation, Graduate Research Fellowship, 2004-2007.
- Student Representative, Graduate Procedure Committee, University of California, Berkeley, CA, 2005-present.
- UC Berkeley Chancellor's Scholarship, UC Berkeley, 2003-2004.
- Organizing Committee, International Society of Tropical Foresters, Conference on Environmental Services, Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, New Haven, CT, 2003.
- Tropical Resources Institute, Research Grant, Yale University, 2002.
- Hispanic Scholarship Fund, Educational Grant, 2002.
- Organizing Committee, International Society of Tropical Foresters, Conference on Illegal Logging, Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, New Haven, CT, 2002.
- Green Corps, Grassroots Organizing Fellowship, 2000-2001.
- Fulbright Scholarship, Impacts of Ecological Tourism in Costa Rica, 1999-2000.
- Levi-Pierce Award for Excellence in Latin American Studies, Wesleyan University, 1999.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS:

Chacón, N., W. Silver, E. Dubinsky and **D. Cusack**. Iron Reduction and Phosphorous Solubilization in Humid Tropical Forest Soils: The Roles of Labile Carbon Pools and an Electron Shuttle Compound. *Biogeochemistry*, in press.

- Cusack, D.**, and L. Dixon (2006). Community-Based Ecotourism and Sustainability: Cases in Bocas del Toro Province, Panama and Talamanca, Costa Rica. *Journal of Sustainable Forestry*, 22(1/2):157.
- Montagnini, F., **D. Cusack**, B. Petit, and M. Kanninen (2005). Environmental Services of Native Tree Plantations and Agroforestry Systems in Central America. *Journal of Sustainable Forestry* 21(1): 51-67.
- Cusack, D.**, and F. Montagnini (2004). The Role of Native Species Plantations in Recovery of Understory Woody Diversity in Degraded Pasturelands of Costa Rica. *Forest Ecology and Management* 188:1-15.
- Cusack, D.**, B. Hodgdon, and F. Montagnini, Eds. (2002). Forests, Communities, and Sustainable Management: A Summary of a Forum Examining Community Forestry Initiatives in the Tropics. New Haven, CT, *Yale Forest Forum Review*: 5(6).

PRESENTATIONS

“Biological Nitrogen Fixation and the Effects of Nitrogen Additions in the Luquillo Experimental Forest, Puerto Rico.” Poster by D. F. Cusack, W. Silver and W. H. McDowell. Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting, Memphis, TN. August 2006.

“Effects of Nitrogen Deposition on Nitrogen Fixation and Nutrient Cycling in a Tropical Forest.” LTER Graduate Student Collaborative Research Symposium, H.J. Andrews LTER, Oregon. April 2005.

“The Role of Native Species Plantations in Restoring Understory Diversity to Abandoned Pasturelands in the Neotropics.” Annual Meeting of the Project for Reforestation with Native Species (PRORENA), Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Panama. November 2002.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Radiocarbon in Ecology and Earth System Science. Taught by T. Schuur and S. Trumbore at the WM Keck Mass Accelerator Mass Spectrometry Facility at UC Irvine. Course attended July, 2005.