

# Benjamin David Blanchard

## *Curriculum Vitae*

Committee on Evolutionary Biology  
University of Chicago  
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### EDUCATION

University of Chicago  
*Ph.D., Evolutionary Biology (2014-present)*  
University of Michigan – Ann Arbor  
*B.Sc., Ecology & Evolutionary Biology (2013)*

### RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

(2016) NSF-East Asia and Pacific Summer Institutes (EAPSI), Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Gardens, Yunnan, China  
(2015) Ant Course, Southwestern Research Station, San Simon, AZ  
(2013) Research Intern, Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology  
(2011-2013) Ant Taxonomy/Curation Research Assistant, University of Michigan Museum of Natural History  
(2012) NSF-Research Experience for Undergraduates, American Museum of Natural History  
(2011) NSF-Research Experience for Undergraduates, Kansas State University  
(2009-2011) Research Intern, Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program, University of Michigan  
(2010) Field Course, University of Michigan Biological Station

### PUBLICATIONS

#### *Peer-Reviewed Publications*

Blanchard, B.D., and C.S. Moreau. 2017. Defensive traits exhibit an evolutionary trade-off and drive diversification in ants. *Evolution* 71(2):315-328.  
Clouse, M.C., B.D. Blanchard, R. Gibson, W.C. Wheeler, and M. Janda. 2016. Taxonomic updates for some confusing Micronesian species of *Camponotus* (Hymenoptera: Formicidae: Formicinae). *Myrmecological News* 23:139-152.  
Liu, C., B. Guénard, B. Blanchard, Y.Q. Peng, and E.P. Economo. 2016. Reorganization of taxonomic, functional, and phylogenetic ant biodiversity after conversion to rubber plantation. *Ecological Monographs* 86(2):215-227.  
Economo, E.P., E.M. Sarnat, M. Janda, R. Clouse, P. Klimov, G. Fischer, B.D. Blanchard, *et al.* 2015. Breaking out of biogeographical modules: range expansion and taxon cycles in the hyperdiverse ant genus *Pheidole*. *Journal of Biogeography* 42(12):2289-2301.  
Liu, C., B. Guénard, F. Hita Garcia, S. Yamane, B. Blanchard, D.R. Yang, and E. Economo. 2015. New records of ant species from Yunnan, China. *ZooKeys* 477:17-78.  
Clouse, M.C., M. Janda, B. Blanchard, *et al.* 2014. Molecular phylogeny of Indo-Pacific carpenter ants (Hymenoptera: Formicidae, *Camponotus*) reveals waves of dispersal and colonization from diverse source areas. *Cladistics* 31(4):424-437.

Sarnat, E.M., B. Blanchard, B. Guénard, J. Fasi, and E.P. Economo. 2013. Checklist of the ants (Hymenoptera, Formicidae) of the Solomon Islands and a new survey of the Makira Island. *Zookeys* 257:47-88.

Guénard, B., B. Blanchard, C. Liu, D.R. Yang, and E.P. Economo. 2013. Rediscovery of the rare ant genus *Bannapone* (Hymenoptera: Formicidae: Amblyoponinae) and the description of the worker caste. *Zootaxa* 375(3): 371-379.

#### *Undergraduate Honors Thesis*

Blanchard, B. 2013. The effects of habitat heterogeneity on the distribution and composition of ant communities in a tall grass prairie. Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of Michigan.

#### GRANTS & AWARDS

- (2017) Brown Graduate Fellowship, Field Museum of Natural History [\$32,000 stipend]
- (2017) Society of Systematic Biologists (SSB) Standalone Meeting Travel Award [\$500]
- (2017) Henry Hinds Fund for Graduate Student Research in Evolutionary Biology [\$2,500]
- (2017) University of Chicago Graduate Council Travel Fund Award [\$600]
- (2017) NSF-Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant (DDIG) [\$15,043]
- (2016) Student Competition Winner, Second Place, International Congress of Entomology
- (2016) NSF-East Asia and Pacific Summer Institutes Award [\$5,000 stipend]
- (2016) 2016 NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program Honorable Mention
- (2015) 2015 NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program Honorable Mention
- (2014) 2014 NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program Honorable Mention
- (2013) Honors for undergraduate thesis

#### PRESENTATIONS

- Blanchard, B.D., and C.S. Moreau. 2017. Defensive traits exhibit an evolutionary trade-off and drive diversification in ants. Oral Presentation, Society of Systematic Biologists (SSB) Standalone Meeting, Baton Rouge, LA.
- Blanchard, B.D., and C.S. Moreau. 2016. Defensive traits exhibit an evolutionary trade-off and drive diversification in ants. Oral Presentation, XXV International Congress of Entomology, Orlando, FL.
- Blanchard, B., and C.S. Moreau. 2015. Ants and their defenses: an evolutionary trade-off? Oral Presentation, Entomological Society of America annual conference, Portland, OR.

#### TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- (2017) University of Chicago. The Public and Private Lives of Insects. Teaching assistant.
- (2015) University of Chicago. Reconstructing the Tree of Life: An introduction to phylogenetics. Teaching assistant.
- (2013-2014) Cili Number One High School (兹利县第一中学). Volunteer oral English teacher through the NGO WorldTeach.

#### SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES & SERVICE

(2014-present) Member, Entomological Society of America  
(2015-present) Member, Society of Systematic Biologists  
(2016-present) Member, Society for the Study of Evolution  
Reviewed manuscripts for *Insect Systematics & Evolution* and *Agricultural and Forest Entomology*

### OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

(Ongoing since 2015) Volunteer academic tutor, Strive Tutoring  
(Ongoing since 2014) “Meet a Scientist”, “Members’ Night”, “Discovery Squad”, and “Talk to a Scientist” programs at the Field Museum of Natural History  
(2016) Panelist discussing science careers at ITW David Speer Academy in Chicago  
(2016) Volunteer science fair judge, Fredrich W. Von Steuben Metropolitan Center  
(2016) Participated in “How Much Money Does an Ant Scientist Make? (ft. Dr. Corrie Moreau)”, a video by the popular YouTube channel AntsCanada  
(2016) Invited talk for the undergraduate University of Chicago PaleoClub: “Precious by death: using fossils in phylogenetics, and other cool stuff about ants”  
(2015) Featured in “Visiting the Ant Lab at the Chicago Field Museum”, a video by the popular YouTube channel AntsCanada  
(2015) Consultant for a children’s book, *Ant* (Susan H. Gray, Cherry Hill Publishing)  
(2014) Volunteer science fair judge, Fredrich W. Von Steuben Metropolitan Center  
(2014) Shared insect collection and discussed ants at Camp Lakeshore in Novi, MI, for a session on “Artful Ants”

### LANGUAGES

English (Native)  
Mandarin Chinese (ILR Level 2: Working Proficiency)