

# Benjamin David Blanchard

## *Curriculum Vitae*

Committee on Evolutionary Biology  
University of Chicago  
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### EDUCATION

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

### 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

- (2018) 1<sup>st</sup> AsiaEvo Conference Student Award [5,000¥/~\$800]  
(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. 2018. Defensive traits exhibit an evolutionary trade-off and drive diversification in ants. Oral Presentation, 1<sup>st</sup> AsiaEvo Conference, Shenzhen, Guangdong, China.
- Blanchard, B.D. 2018. Investigating morphological divergence and constraint in ants using traditional and 3D morphometric approaches. Oral Presentation, Okinawa Institution of Science and Technology Mini-Symposium: “Advances in imaging, quantifying, and understanding the evolution of ant phenotypes”.
- 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.

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- (2017) NSF-DDIG funded research at Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Garden (XTBG)
- (2016) NSF-East Asia and Pacific Summer Institutes (EAPSI), XTBG
- (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

## 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

- (2017-present) Member, American Society of Naturalists
  - (2017-present) Member, American Philosophical Association
  - (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 *Behavioral Ecology*, *Biological Journal of the Linnean Society*, *Insect Systematics & Evolution*, and *Agricultural and Forest Entomology*

## OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

- (Ongoing since 2016) Editor-in-Chief of *The Daily Ant*
- (Ongoing since 2015) Volunteer 1-on-1 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 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)