

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., Nakamura, A., Cao, M., Chen, S.T., and Moreau, C.S. Spine and dine: Foraging behavior, competitive dynamics, and predator-prey interactions support the escape-and-radiate hypothesis in spiny ants. *Submitted*.
- Blanchard, B.D., and Moreau, C.S. 2017. Defensive traits exhibit an evolutionary trade-off and drive diversification in ants. *Evolution* 71(2):315-328.
- Clouse, M.C., Blanchard, B.D., Gibson, R., Wheeler, W.C., and Janda, M. 2016. Taxonomic updates for some confusing Micronesian species of *Camponotus* (Hymenoptera: Formicidae: Formicinae). *Myrmecological News* 23:139-152.
- Liu, C., Guénard, B., Blanchard, B., Peng, Y.Q., and Economo, E.P. 2016. Reorganization of taxonomic, functional, and phylogenetic ant biodiversity after conversion to rubber plantation. *Ecological Monographs* 86(2):215-227.
- Economo, E.P., Sarnat, E.M., Janda, M., Clouse, R., Klimov, P., Fischer, G., Blanchard, B.D., *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., Guénard, B., Hita Garcia, F., Yamane, S., Blanchard, B., Yang, D.R., and Economo, E. 2015. New records of ant species from Yunnan, China. *ZooKeys* 477:17-78.
- Clouse, M.C., Janda, M., Blanchard, B., *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., Blanchard, B., Guénard, B., Fasi, J., and Economo, E.P. 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., Blanchard, B., Liu, C., Yang, D.R., and Economo, E.P. 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) 1st 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 Moreau, C.S. 2019. Phylogenomics and the evolution of defensive traits in ants. Oral Presentation, Evolution 2019, Providence, RI, U.S.A.
- Blanchard, B.D., Nakamura, A., Cao, M., and Moreau, C.S. 2018. Spine and dine: Are competitive and predator-prey interactions mediated by a morphological trait-based trade-off in spiny ants? Oral Presentation, ESA/ESC/ESBC Joint Annual Meeting, Vancouver, BC, Canada.
- Blanchard, B.D., and Moreau, C.S. 2018. Defensive traits exhibit an evolutionary trade-off and drive diversification in ants. Oral Presentation, 1st 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”, Okinawa, Japan.
- Blanchard, B.D., and Moreau, C.S. 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, U.S.A.
- Blanchard, B.D., and Moreau, C.S. 2016. Defensive traits exhibit an evolutionary trade-off and drive diversification in ants. Oral Presentation, XXV International Congress of Entomology, Orlando, FL, U.S.A.
- Blanchard, B., and Moreau, C.S. 2015. Ants and their defenses: an evolutionary trade-off? Oral Presentation, Entomological Society of America annual conference, Portland, OR, U.S.A.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- (2017-2018) 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 Asst., Univ. of Mich. Museum of Nat. 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, Univ. of Michigan
- (2010) Field Course, University of Michigan Biological Station

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- (2019) University of Chicago. Natural History of North American Deserts. Teaching assistant.

- (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
(2017-2019) 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*, *BMC Evolutionary Biology*, *Biological Journal of the
Linnean Society*, *Insect Systematics & Evolution*, *Agricultural and Forest Entomology*, and *Insectes Sociaux*

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

- (Ongoing since 2016) Editor-in-Chief of *The Daily Ant*, an online blog and media site
(Ongoing since 2015) Volunteer 1-on-1 academic tutor, Strive Tutoring
(Ongoing since 2014) “Meet a Scientist”, “Members’ Night”, “Discovery Squad”, “Talk to a
Scientist”, and “Dozin’ With the Dinos” 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)