

# Benjamin David Blanchard

## *Curriculum Vitae*

Postdoctoral Researcher

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<https://benjaminblanchard.net>

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### EDUCATION

University of Chicago

*Ph.D., Evolutionary Biology (June 2020)*

*Advisor: Corrie S. Moreau*

*Enrolled: Oct. 2014 – June 2020*

University of Michigan – Ann Arbor

*B.Sc., Ecology & Evolutionary Biology (May 2013)*

*Enrolled: Sep. 2009 – May 2013*

### ACADEMIC POSITIONS

(Sep. 2021 – Present)

Postdoctoral Researcher, CAS President's International Fellowship Initiative, Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Garden

(June 2020 – Aug. 2020)

Postdoctoral Researcher (Contract), Moreau Lab, Cornell University

(May 2016 – June 2020)

Ph.D. Candidate, Committee on Evo. Biology, University of Chicago

(Oct. 2014 – May 2016)

Ph.D. Student, Committee on Evo. Biology, University of Chicago

### OTHER POSITIONS

(Oct. 2020 – June 2021)

Remote Learning Coordinator, Hyde Park Refugee Project

(Sep. 2013 – July 2014)

Oral English teacher (WorldTeach), Cili Number One High School (兹利县第一中学), Yunnan, China

### PUBLICATIONS

#### *Peer-Reviewed Publications*

Blanchard, B.D., and Moreau, C.S. Defensive spines are associated with large geographic range but not diversification in spiny ants (Hymenoptera: Formicidae: *Polyrhachis*). *In revision at Systematic Entomology*.

Price, S.L., Blanchard, B.D.\*, Powell, S., Blaimer, B.B., and Moreau, C.S. 2021. Phylogenomics and fossil data inform the systematics and geographic range evolution of a diverse Neotropical ant lineage. *In press at Insect Systematics and Diversity*.

\*Co-first author & corresponding author

Blanchard, B.D., Nakamura, A., Cao, M., Chen, S.T., and Moreau, C.S. 2020. Spine and dine: A key defensive trait promotes ecological success in spiny ants. *Ecology and Evolution* 10:5852-5863.

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.

#### *Magazine Publications*

Blanchard, B.D. "The Socialist Ant". *Current Affairs*, Sep./Oct. 2021, pp. 7-10.

#### *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

\*Invited

- \*Blanchard, B.D., Nakamura, A., Cao, M., and Moreau, C.S. 2019. Phylogenomics and the evolution of defensive traits in ants. Oral Presentation, XXIV Simpósio de Mirmecologia: An International Ant Meeting, Belo Horizonte, MG, Brazil.
- 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, 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 Institute 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 AND TRAINING EXPERIENCE

- (2019) Trees in the Desert: A workshop on ultra-large phylogenetic trees, Tucson, AZ – USA
- (2017-2018) NSF-DDIG research, Xishuangbanna Trop. Bot. Garden (XTBG), Yunnan – China
- (2017) SSB Standalone Mtg, RevBayes and ‘bayou’ workshops, Baton Rouge, LA – USA
- (2016) NSF-East Asia and Pacific Summer Institutes (EAPSI), XTBG, Yunnan – China
- (2015) SSB Standalone Mtg, Computational Macroevolution workshop, Ann Arbor, MI – USA
- (2015) Ant Course, Southwestern Research Station, San Simon, AZ – USA
- (2013) Research Intern, Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology, Okinawa – Japan
- (2011-2013) Ant Taxonomy/Curation Research Asst., U. Mich. Museum of Nat. History – USA
- (2012) NSF-Research Experience for Undergraduates, American Museum of Nat. History – USA
- (2011) NSF-Research Experience for Undergraduates, Kansas State University – USA
- (2009-2011) Research Intern, Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program, U. Mich. – USA
- (2010) Field Course, University of Michigan Biological Station – USA

#### TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- (2020) University of Chicago. Ecology in the Anthropocene. Teaching assistant.
- (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), Yunnan, China. Volunteer oral English teacher through the NGO WorldTeach.

#### SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES & SERVICE

- (2016-present) Voluntary proofreading and line-editing (content and English grammar) of scientific manuscripts for colleagues from the U.S., China, Brazil, and Portugal
- (2017-present) Member, American Society of Naturalists

(2017-2019) Member, American Philosophical Association  
(2016-present) Member, Society for the Study of Evolution  
(2015-present) Member, Society of Systematic Biologists  
(2014-present) Member, Entomological Society of America  
Reviewed manuscripts for *Behavioral Ecology*, *BMC Evolutionary Biology*, *Integrative and Comparative Biology*, *Biological Journal of the Linnean Society*, *Insect Systematics & Evolution*, *Agricultural and Forest Entomology*, *Insectes Sociaux*, and *Journal of Tropical Ecology*

#### OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

(2020-present) Volunteer Family Mentor and Tutor, Hyde Park Refugee Project  
(2016-present) Editor-in-Chief of *The Daily Ant*, an online blog and media site (includes edited “Philosophy Fridays” series of solicited contributed pieces from faculty and graduate students in philosophy): [dailyant.com](http://dailyant.com)  
(2015-2019) Volunteer 1-on-1 academic tutor (grades 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>), Strive Tutoring  
(2014-2019) “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: “Artful Ants”

#### LANGUAGES

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