

# Maisha Lucas

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## EDUCATION

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**The University of Georgia - Athens, GA**

May 2019

*Bachelor of Arts in Ecology*

*Minor in Entomology*

GPA 3.24/4.00

**Study Abroad: UGA Tropical Biology Course - Monteverde, Costa Rica**

August 2017 – November 2017

- Earned 14 academic credit hours in major-related field courses while experiencing Costa Rican culture.
- Developed a global perspective on ecological issues in the Central-American tropics through daily class discussions and lectures lead by local community residents and research scientists.

## WORK EXPERIENCE

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**Junior Research Specialist** University of California Riverside

June 2019 - Present

*Primary Investigator: Dr. Lauren Ponisio*

- Studied plant-pollinator interactions through surveying native wild flowers and insects at research plots.
- Assisted in assembling survey transects and bee nestboxes.
- Sampled in the field for long hours under inclement and adverse weather conditions.

## INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE

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**Georgia Museum of Natural History** Athens, GA

December 2018 – May 2019

*Independent Research Specialist for NSF Postdoctoral Fellowship in Biology FY 2017: Historical Dynamic of Native Ant Communities of the Southeastern U.S.: Community Responses to Invasion by Exotic Ant Species*

*Principal Investigator: Dr. Douglas B Booher*

- Composed labels for ~4,000 ant specimen through the reference of collectors' field notes recorded from 1960 to 1988
- Input collected ant specimens' label data into an excel spreadsheet through sorting by assigned classification codes.
- Amassed locality data through the use of Google Earth to precisely determine latitude, longitude, and elevation at the site of collection.

**Georgia Museum of Natural History** Athens, GA

December 2017- December 2018

*Arthropod Collection Intern*

- Prepared specimen for storage by pinning, point-mounting, and labeling donated arthropods.
- Integrated newly identified specimen into the existing collection of over 1 million arthropods through filing by taxonomic classification.
- Revised classification labels on specimen drawers by identifying and replacing outdated or incorrect genera names.

**Georgia Museum of Natural History** Athens, GA

June 2018 - August 2018

*LepNet Intern*

- Accurately cataloged 1500+ Lepidopteran museum specimen to the online database, SCAN (Symbiota Collections of Arthropods Network), by transferring information on the determination labels to the data portal.
- Conducted thorough data cleaning on a weekly basis by spotting and correcting errors in previous entries.

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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**Independent Undergraduate Research** Monteverde, Costa Rica

August 2017 - November 2017

*Advisors: Dr. Ronald Carroll and Dr. Amanda Rugenski*

- Compared abundance, diversity, and richness of moths in a disturbed and an undisturbed area by analyzing photographic images of Moth Boards collected over a 2 week period.
- Recorded results utilizing Excel spreadsheets that included the data of 300+ observed specimen.
- Gained experience in the identification of 20+ families of Lepidopteran with the aid of José J. Montero Ramírez: one of the top Lepidopteran experts in Costa Rica.

## GRANTS

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**Odum School of Ecology Seydel Award in Sustainability: Funded**

Spring 2019

- Used funding to design three signs for The State Botanical Garden of Georgia that informed visitors of the importance of habitat restoration.

## CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

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- Led an Invasive species removal day at The State Botanical Garden of Georgia
- Assisted with the insect exhibit during Zoo Days at Bear Hollow Zoo
- Volunteered for Insectival at The State Botanical Garden of Georgia
- Created "Care for the Rare" signs for The State Botanical Garden of Georgia
- Designed and installed a pollinator garden for Athens Regional Hospital

Spring 2019  
Fall 2018  
Fall 2018  
Spring 2017  
Spring 2016

## TECHNICAL SKILLS

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- Proficient in Microsoft Office