

ELIZABETH S. NICHOLS

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APPOINTMENTS

2006 - present	PhD Candidate and Faculty Fellow, Department of Ecology, Evolution and Environmental Biology (E3B), Columbia University, USA.
2006 – present	Visiting Scientist –Center for Biodiversity and Conservation, American Museum of Natural History (CBC/AMNH)
2004 - present	Project coordinator, NSF RCN Grant DEB-0043443, ‘The Scarabaeinae Research Network’
2004 - 2006	Invertebrate Biodiversity Specialist. Invertebrate Conservation Program, CBC/AMNH
2004	Consultant, United Nations Development Programme, Small Grants Programme
2003 - 2004	Intern, United Nations Development Programme, Small Grants Programme
2002 - 2004	Project Leader, Wildlife Trust International
2000	Student Team Member, Frontier Tanzania

EDUCATION

2006 - 2011	PhD student. Ecology, Evolution and Environmental Biology, Columbia University, USA. ‘ <i>Consequences of Mammal Hunting on Dung Beetle Biodiversity and Function</i> ’. Supervisors S. Spector, M. Uriarte
2002 - 2004	Master of Arts, Conservation Biology. Columbia University, USA ‘ <i>Interactions Between Fragment Size and Matrix Type for Dung Beetle Community Structure in an Urbanizing Landscape</i> ’ Supervisor J. Danoff-Burg
1997 - 2002	Bachelor of Science, Ecology, Evolution and Conservation Biology, University of Texas, USA

SEMESTERS ABROAD AND SHORT COURSES

2006	National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis (NCEAS) Distributed Graduate Seminar
1998	Tropical Ecology Semester, Organization for Tropical Studies/Duke University, Costa Rica.

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

2010	Fulbright Award Alternate (Brazil)
2008	Brazilian National Research Council with J. Louzada, S. Spector and C. Peres (\$24,500)
2007	E3B Pre-dissertation travel award (\$2,500)
2009	NSF Coupled Human and Natural Systems (CHANS) Fellowship (\$1,000)
2006	Columbia University Faculty Fellowship
2006	Yeh Family Foundation Fellowship

PUBLICATIONS

1. **Nichols, E.**, Côrtes, M, DeFries, R, Naeem, S. A working definition of biodiversity ecosystem services for use in payments for environmental services (PES) programs. *In prep.*
2. **Nichols, E.**, Bunker, D., Spector, S, Larsen, T., Vulinec, K., Vaz-de-Mello, F., Favila, M., Naeem, S. Dung beetle traits and trade-offs modulate species response to landuse intensification. *In Prep.*
3. **Nichols, E.**, Gómez A., Conservation education needs more parasites. *In Review.*
4. Naeem, S., Flynn, D., Bunker, D., Palmer, M., **Nichols, E.** Complementarity, compensation and redundancy: Relating the niche to the functional components of biodiversity. *In Review.*
5. Gómez, A., **Nichols, E.**, Perkins, S., Parasites, Conservation Medicine, and Ecosystem Health. In: Aguirre A. Daszak, P et al. (eds). *In press.* Conservation Medicine, Second Edition.
6. **Nichols, E.** and Gardner, T. A. Dung beetles as a candidate study taxon in applied biodiversity conservation research. *In press.* In: Simmons, L. W. and Ridsdill-Smith, J. (eds.), *Dung Beetle Ecology and Evolution.* Wiley-Blackwell
7. **Nichols, E.** and S. Spector. 2010. "The Importance of Invertebrate Conservation." [Network of Conservation Educators and Practitioners](#) –American Museum of Natural History.
8. Gómez, A. and E. **Nichols.** 2010. "Biodiversity Conservation and Human Health." [Network of Conservation Educators and Practitioners](#) –American Museum of Natural History.
9. **Nichols, E.**, Gardner, T., Peres, C. A., Spector, S. 2009. "Co-declining mammals and dung beetles: an impending ecological cascade" *Oikos*. 118(4) 481-487
10. **Nichols, E.**, S. Spector, J. Louzada, T. Larsen, S. Amezcuita, M. Favila and Scarabnet, 2008. "Ecological functions and ecosystem services of Scarabaeine dung beetles: a review." *Biological Conservation* 141(6): 1461-1474.
11. Spector, S. and **E. Nichols.** 2008. "Dirty Work, Done Dirt Cheap." *Wings*. 31

12. **Nichols, E.**, Larsen, T., Spector, S., Escobar, E., Favila, M.E, Davis, A., Vulinec, K. 2007. Dung beetle response to tropical forest modification and fragmentation: a quantitative literature review and meta-analysis. *Biological Conservation* 137:1-19.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

INSTRUCTOR

- 2006 AMNH Environmental Education (preschool age)
2005 Graduate level field ecology. Teacher Training Program, Center for Environmental Research and Conservation (CERC), Columbia University (CU). Dominican Republic
2004 Graduate level field ecology. Teacher Training Program, CERC, CU, Dominican Republic

ASSISTANT

- 2008 Graduate level Fundamentals of Ecology and Evolution. Ecology, Evolution and Environmental Biology Department (E3B) CU, USA
2008 Semester Ecosystem Experience for Undergraduates Program (SEEU). CERC, CU, USA
2007 Graduate level Conservation Biology, E3B, CU, USA
2007 Undergraduate level Conservation Biology, E3B, CU, USA
2004 Undergraduate field ecology. CERC, SEEU Program, Dominican Republic

PRESENTATIONS

CONTRIBUTED PAPERS

- 2010 Student Conference on Conservation Science (SCCS-NY)
2009 NSF Coupled Human and Natural Systems Symposium, US Regional IALE meeting
2008 Graduate Student Seminar. E3B Department, Columbia University.
2008 Society for Conservation Biology Meeting, Chattanooga Tennessee.
2007 Graduate Student Seminar. E3B Department, Columbia University.
2006 Society for Conservation Biology Meeting, San Jose, California
2006 NCEAS Distributed Graduate Seminar, Santa Barbara, California

RECENT INVITED SEMINARS

- 2010 Universidade Federal de Mato Gross (Brazil) "Caça, rola bostas e funções ecológicas: aventuras medindo os efeitos secundários de declino da biodiversidade no mundo real"
Universidade Federal de Lavras (Brazil) "Funções ecológicas: utilizando os rola bostas como um sistema modelo"
2009 University of Lancaster (UK) "Ecological function and realistic biodiversity decline scenarios: dung beetles as a model BEF system"
Bedford Audubon Society Lecture Series (US) "The Invaluable Ecosystem Services of the Humble Dung Beetle"

REFEREE WORK

Reviewer for >10 journals, including *Oikos*, *Diversity and Distributions*, *Ecology Letters*

PRESS COVERAGE

[Center for Biodiversity and Conservation Students feature \(2010\)](#)

[AMNH Science Bulletins \(2010\)](#)

Streit, B (2007). *Scarabs Newsletter* 23: 1-3

Cohn, J. (2005). "Urban Wildlife." *BioScience* 55(3): 201-205.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Society for Conservation Biology (SCB), Association for Tropical Biology (ATB), New York Academy of Sciences (NYAS), International Association for Landscape Ecology (IALE).

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

- 2009 Contributor to first global assessment of dung beetle conservation status (IUCN SRLI)
2006 - present Co-founder and contributor to www.biologiadelaconservacion.com
2008 - 2009 Graduate student representative – E3B Dept, Columbia University
2007 - 2009 Organizer of graduate student journal club – E3B Dept, Columbia University

ADDITIONAL SKILLS

Proficient written and spoken Brazilian Portuguese. QGIS, ArcGIS, R, Dreamweaver