

Marina B. Blanco

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Research interests

Primate reproductive biology, primate behavioral ecology and conservation, nocturnal lemurs, cheirogaleids, ecology of hibernation, life histories, Madagascar

Education

- 2010 PhD in Biological Anthropology. University of Massachusetts, Amherst: "Reproductive biology of mouse and dwarf lemurs of eastern Madagascar, with an emphasis on brown mouse lemurs (*Microcebus rufus*) at Ranomafana National Park, a southeastern rainforest"
- 2004 MA in Biological Anthropology. University of Massachusetts, Amherst: "Craniofacial variation in four species of genus *Alouatta*: a test for heterochrony"
- 1998 BA in Anthropology. "Licenciatura", School of Natural Sciences. National University of La Plata, Argentina

Appointments

- 2012 Postdoctoral Associate, Duke Lemur Center, Durham
- 2011-2 Adjunct Postdoctoral Research Associate, Department of Anthropology, University of Massachusetts, Amherst
- 2011 Visiting Scholar, Department of Anthropology, Dartmouth College, Hanover

Peer-Reviewed Publications

Blanco MB, Elfawal M, Durden LA, Xu G, Godfrey LR, Rich, SM (in press) Genetic diversity of ixodid ticks hosted by eastern mouse and dwarf lemurs of Madagascar, with descriptions of larva, nymph and male stages of *Ixodes lemuris*. Journal of Parasitology

King SJ, Boyer DM, Tecot S, Strait SG, Zohdy S, **Blanco MB**, Wright PC, Jernvall J (2012) Lemur habitat and dental senescence in Ranomafana National Park, Madagascar. American Journal of Physical Anthropology 148: 228-237.

Wright, PC, Erhart EM, Tecot S, Baden AL, Arrigo-Nelson SJ, Herrera J, Morelli TL, **Blanco MB**, Deppe A, Atsalis S, Johnson S, Ratelolahy F, Tan C, Zohdy S (2012) Long-term lemur research at Centre Valbio, Ranomafana National Park, Madagascar. In: *Long-term Field Studies of Primates*, PM Kappeler, DP Watts (eds.), Springer-Verlag Berlin, Heidelberg, pp 67-100.

Crowley BE, Thorén S, Rasoazanabary E, Barret MA, Zohdy S, **Blanco MB**, McGoogan KC, Arrigo-Nelson SJ, Irwin MT, Vogel ER, Wright PC, Radespiel U, Godfrey LR, Koch PL, Dominy NJ (2011) Explaining geographical variation in the isotope composition of mouse lemurs (*Microcebus*). Journal of Biogeography 38 (11): 2106-2121.

- Blanco MB** (2011) Timely estrus in wild brown mouse lemur females at Ranomafana National Park, southeastern Madagascar. American Journal of Physical Anthropology 145: 311-317.
- Blanco MB**, Rahalinarivo V (2010) First direct evidence of hibernation in an eastern dwarf lemur species (*Cheirogaleus crossleyi*) from the high-altitude forest of Tsinjoarivo, central-eastern Madagascar. Naturwissenschaften 97 (10): 945-950.
- Groeneveld LF, **Blanco MB**, Raharison J-L, Rahalinarivo V, Kappeler PM, Godfrey LR, Irwin MT (2010) mtDNA and nDNA corroborate existence of sympatric dwarf lemur species at Tsinjoarivo, eastern Madagascar. Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution 55 (3): 833-845.
- Blanco MB**, Meyer JS (2009) Assessing reproductive profiles in female brown mouse lemurs (*Microcebus rufus*) from Ranomafana National Park, southeast Madagascar, using fecal hormone analysis. American Journal of Primatology 71(6): 439-446.
- Blanco MB**, Godfrey LR, Rakotondratsima M, Samonds KE, Raharison J-L, Irwin MT (2009) Discovery of sympatric dwarf lemur species in the high-altitude rainforest of Tsinjoarivo, eastern Madagascar: Implications for biogeography and conservation. Folia Primatologica 80(1): 1-17.
- Blanco MB** (2008) Reproductive schedules of female brown mouse lemurs (*Microcebus rufus*) at Ranomafana National Park, Madagascar. International Journal of Primatology 29 (2): 323-338.
- Blanco MB**, Godfrey LR (2006) Craniofacial sexual dimorphism in *Alouatta palliata*, the mantled howling monkey. Journal of Zoology 270: 268-276.

Grants, Awards and Honors

- 2012 DFG (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft) Grant, project “Ecophysiology, ecology and evolution of tropical hibernation” (Cooperation Partner; PI: Kathrin Dausmann)
- 2011 Margot Marsh Biodiversity Foundation Grant, project “Effects of forest fragmentation on the ecology of hibernation and population dynamics of dwarf lemurs (*Cheirogaleus sibreei* and *C. crossleyi*) at Tsinjoarivo, Madagascar”
Primate Conservation Inc. Renewal Grant, project “Biology of two sympatric dwarf lemur populations (*Cheirogaleus sibreei* and *C. crossleyi*) in the high-altitude forests of Tsinjoarivo, eastern Madagascar”
American Association of Physical Anthropologists Professional Development Grant, project “First assessment of minimum life span in wild dwarf lemurs by dental topographic analysis”
- 2010 CI Primate Action Fund Grant, Primate Conservation Inc. Grant, project “Biology of two sympatric dwarf lemur populations (*Cheirogaleus sibreei* and *C. crossleyi*) in the high-altitude forests of Tsinjoarivo, eastern Madagascar”
- 2009 CI Primate Action Fund Grant, project “Halting Politically-Induced Deforestation in the Short Term To Preserve the Unique Primate Community of Tsinjoarivo, Eastern Central Madagascar” (co-PI; PI: Mitchell Irwin)
- 2008 Graduate Fellowship, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

Primate Conservation Inc. Grant, CI Primate Action Fund Grant, project “Biology of two sympatric dwarf lemur populations (*Cheirogaleus* spp.) in the high-altitude forests of Tsinjoarivo, eastern Madagascar”

- 2007 CI Primate Action Fund Grant, project “Reproductive biology of cheirogaleids in the eastern rain forests of Madagascar”
Primate Conservation Inc. Grant, Sigma XI Grant-in-aid of research, project “Survey of nocturnal lemurs in the continuous and fragmented forests of Tsinjoarivo, eastern Madagascar”
David J. Klingener Endowment Fellowship Award, project “Dental analysis of small-bodied Malagasy lemurs”
- 2006 Rufford Small Grant for Nature Conservation, CI Primate Action Fund Grant, project “Population and reproductive biology of *Microcebus* and *Cheirogaleus* in the eastern rain forests of Madagascar”
Jane Hallenbeck Bemis Endowment for Research in Natural History, awarded for building dental cast database for the Anthropological Primate Collection at the Anthropology Morphometrics Laboratory, University of Massachusetts
- 2001 Study Award, Organismic and Evolutionary Biology, University of Massachusetts, for Organization for Tropical Studies field course, Costa Rica
- 2000-
1999 Postgraduate Scholarship, Commission of Scientific Research (Beca de Iniciación, Comisión de Investigaciones Científicas) for the project “Reconstrucción de la paleodemografía bonaerense”. Buenos Aires. Argentina
- 1998 Distinction “Dr. Joaquín V. González” awarded to graduates with the best grades. National University of La Plata, Argentina.

Research Experience

- 2010 IACUC (Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee) coordinator assistant, Animal Care Office, University of Massachusetts, Amherst
- 2007-8 Research Assistant at Ranomafana National Park; National Science Foundation Grant, “Losing the Edge: Senescence schedules and longevity in Malagasy rain forest primates” (PI: Dr. Patricia Wright; CO-PIs: Dr. Laurie Godfrey and Dr. Jukka Jernvall)
- 2006-7 Research Assistant at Ranomafana National Park and Tsinjoarivo, Madagascar; National Science Foundation Grant “Dental development in living and extinct Malagasy lemurs” (PI: Dr. Laurie Godfrey)
- 2004-5 Research Assistant at Ranomafana National Park, Madagascar; National Geographic Society Grant, “Nocturnal lemurs of Ranomafana; solving some life-history mysteries” (PI: Dr. Laurie Godfrey)
- 2004 Research Assistant, Morphometrics Laboratory, U. Mass. National Science Foundation Grant, “Dental development in living and extinct Malagasy lemurs” (PI: Dr. Laurie Godfrey)