

THAIS VASCONCELOS

Curriculum Vitae (August/ 2026)

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Pronouns: she/her/hers

Professional address: 2068 Biological Sciences Building 1105 North University Ave.
Ann Arbor, MI 48109

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PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

2025 – present: Herbarium Director. Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of Michigan (USA).

2022 – present: Assistant Professor and Assistant Curator of Vascular Plants. Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of Michigan (USA).

2020 – 2022: Post-doctoral Fellow. University of Arkansas (USA). Project title: “Novel framework for estimating continuously-varying diversification rates”. Funding: NSF DEB–1916558. PI: Jeremy Beaulieu.

2018 – 2020: Post-doctoral Research Fellow. Universidade de São Paulo (Brazil). Project title: “Diversification and conservation of the montane flora in the Espinhaco Range”. Funding: FAPESP 2018/02191-1. Advisor: José Rubens Pirani.

EDUCATION

2013 – 2017: PhD in Systematics and Evolutionary Biology, University College London/Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (UK) Thesis title: “Morphological homogeneity, phylogenetic heterogeneity, and systematic complexity in species-rich groups: a case study of floral evolution in Myrteae (Myrtaceae)”. Advisor: Eve Lucas.

2011 – 2013: MSc. in Botany, Universidade de Brasília (Brazil) Dissertation title: “Evolution of floral strategies in the order Myrtales”. Advisor: Carolyn Proença.

2007 – 2011: BSc. in Biological Sciences, Universidade de Brasília (Brazil).

CAREER BREAKS

2024: Maternity leave – “modified duties” (teaching release) during Winter and Fall semesters.

2026: Maternity leave – “modified duties” (teaching release) during the Fall semester.

PUBLICATION LIST

Google Scholar: Citations: 3846; h-index: 31 (August 17, 2026). [[link](#)]

*** Indicate publications as first or senior author**

Peer-reviewed:

2026

- [69] Kilsztajn, Y., Soares de Moraes Conceição, L. H., **Vasconcelos, T.**, Barnes Proença, C. E., & Staggemeier, V. G. (accepted). Herbarium-based measurements are reliable predictors of fresh plant traits in Neotropical Myrtaceae. *Application in Plants Sciences*.
- [68] Hoffman, A. E., **Vasconcelos, T.**, & Hagen, E. R. (2026). Bees as Ambassadors for Plant Awareness and Conservation. *Plant-Environment Interactions*, 7(3), e70171.
- [67] Amaral-Garcia, L., ..., **Vasconcelos, T.**, et al. (2026). Cerrado plant traits (CPT): a database of functional traits across vegetation types in a global biodiversity hotspot. *Annals of Botany*, mcag176.
- [66] Noori, S., Hughes, A. C., **Vasconcelos, T. N.**, Ascher, J. S., Miller, J. T., Gaugel, S. M., Madeleine M. Ostwald, James B. Dorey, Gonzalez, V.H., Martins A.C., Orr, M.C., & Seltmann, K. C. (2026). A curated and integrated dataset for exploring global bee-plant interactions. *Scientific Data*.
- [65] Title, P. O., Henao-Díaz, L. F., Zenil-Ferguson, R., & **Vasconcelos, T.***. (2026). An Evolving View of Lineage Diversification. *Systematic Biology*, syaf086.

2025

- [64] Martins, A.C., Heinrich, L., Hughes, A.C., Seltmann, K.C., Orr, M.C., **Vasconcelos, T.*** New World floras are highly bee dependent regardless of biome or local bee diversity. *Global Ecology and Biogeography*.
- [63] **Vasconcelos, T.***, Weaver, W. N., Baumgartner, A., Bugnaski, Z., & Boyko, J. (2025). Automated extraction of leaf mass per area from digitized herbarium specimens. *New Phytologist*.
- [62] Sperotto, P., **Vasconcelos, T.**, Kriebel, R., & Reginato, M. (2025). Evolutionary shift in petal function from pollinator attraction to water drainage in small buzz-pollinated flowers. *Evolution*, qpaf183.
- [61] Martins, A.C., Freitas, F.V., Rocha-Filho, L.C., Branstetter, M.G., Aguiar, A.J.C., Almeida, E.A.B., **Vasconcelos, T.*** (2025). Host-cleptoparasite biogeographical congruence through time: the case of cuckoo oil bees. *Journal of Biogeography*.
- [60] Fernandes, T., Machado, D.N., Ferreira, M.C.D., **Vasconcelos, T.**, Lucas, E.J., Braga, J. M. A. (2025). From the brink of extinction: rediscovery of two endemic tree species of *Myrcia* (Myrtaceae) in urban Brazilian Atlantic Forest. (in press). *Oryx*.
- [59] Fernandes, T., Lucas, E. J., **Vasconcelos, T.**, & Braga, J. M. A. (2025). Extended description and taxonomic notes on two recently rediscovered *Myrcia* (Myrtaceae) in the Brazilian Atlantic Forest. *Rodriguésia*, 76, e00292024.

2024

- [58] **Vasconcelos, T.***, & Boyko, J. (2024). mvh: an R tool to assemble and organize virtual herbaria from openly available specimen images. *Applications in Plants Sciences* (in press.)
- [57] Santos, M.F., Amorim, B.S., Burton, G.P., Faria, J.E.Q., Fernandes, T., Flickinger, J.A., Gaem, P.H., Landrum, L.R., Lima, D.F., Proença, C.E.B., Rosa, P.O., Lima-dos-Santos, L.,

Setubal, R.B., Stadnik, A.M.S., Staggemeier, V.G., **Vasconcelos, T.**, & Lucas, E.J. A taxonomic account of Myrciinae (Myrteae, Myrtaceae): generic and sectional placement of forgotten species and a list of all accepted species. *Phytotaxa* 674(2):129–170.

[56] Fernandes, T., Lucas, E. J., **Vasconcelos, T.**, Amorim, B., & Braga, J. M. A. (2024). Taxonomic notes in *Myrcia* sect. *Gomidesia* (Myrtaceae) from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil: reestablishment of *M. dolichopetala*, and a new species, *M. macrobracteosa* Nordic Journal of Botany 2024: e04381 doi: 10.1111/njb.04381

[55] Nge, F. J., Hammer, T. A., **Vasconcelos, T.**, Biffin, E., Kellermann, J., & Waycott, M. (2024). Polyploidy linked with species richness but not diversification rates or niche breadth in Australian Pomaderreae (Rhamnaceae). *Annals of Botany*, mcae181.

[54] Fernandes, T., Gaem, P. H., **Vasconcelos, T.**, Bovini, M. G., & Braga, J. M. A. (2024). *Myrcia cupreiflora* (Myrtaceae), a new species from the Brazilian state of Rio de Janeiro. *Phytotaxa*, 663(2), 095-100.

[53] Pizzardo, R. C., Nic Lughadha, E., Rando, J. G., Forest, F., Nogueira, A., Prochazka, L. S., Walker, B. E., & **Vasconcelos, T.*** (2024). An assessment of methods to combine evolutionary history and conservation: A case study in the Brazilian campo rupestre. *Applications in Plant Sciences*, e11587. 10.1002/aps3.11587

[52] Neotropical Myrtaceae Working Group, **Vasconcelos, T.*** (2024). Towards a species-level phylogeny for Neotropical Myrtaceae: Notes on topology and resources for future studies. *American Journal of Botany*, e16330. 10.1002/ajb2.16330

[51] Hagen, E. R., **Vasconcelos, T.**, Boyko, J. D., & Beaulieu, J. M. (2024). Investigating historical drivers of latitudinal gradients in polyploid plant biogeography: A multiclade perspective. *American Journal of Botany*, e16356. 10.1002/ajb2.16356

[50] Prochazka, L. S., Alcantara, S., Rando, J. G., **Vasconcelos, T.**, Pizzardo, R. C., & Nogueira, A. (2024). Resource availability and disturbance frequency shape evolution of plant life forms in Neotropical habitats. *New Phytologist*, 242(2), 760-773. (2023). 10.1111/nph.19601

2023

[49] Martins, A. C., Proença, C. E., **Vasconcelos, T. N.**, Aguiar, A. J., Farinasso, H. C., de Lima, A. T., Faria, J. E. Q., Norrana, K., Costa, M. B. R., Carvalho, M. C., Dias, R. L., Bustamante, M. M. C. Carvalho, F. A. & Keller, A. (2023). Contrasting patterns of foraging behavior in neotropical stingless bees using pollen and honey metabarcoding. *Scientific Reports*, 13(1), 14474. 10.1038/s41598-023-41304-0

[48] Sperotto, P., Roque, N., Acevedo-Rodríguez, P., & **Vasconcelos, T.*** (2023). Climbing mechanisms and the diversification of neotropical climbing plants across time and space. *New Phytologist*. 10.1111/nph.19093

[47] Boyko, J. D., Hagen, E. R., Beaulieu, J. M., & **Vasconcelos, T.*** (2023). The evolutionary responses of life-history strategies to climatic variability in flowering plants. *New Phytologist*. 10.1111/nph.18971

[46] Dawson, M. N., Gillespie, R., Robin, V. V., Tolley, K. A., & **Vasconcelos, T.** (2023). The Global Biogeography Initiative. *Journal of Biogeography*, 50(8), 1373-1376. 10.1111/jbi.14680

[45] **Vasconcelos T.*** 2023. A trait-based approach to determining principles of plant biogeography. *American Journal of Botany*. 10.1002/ajb2.16127

[44] **Vasconcelos T.*** Boyko JD, Beaulieu JM. 2023. Linking mode of seed dispersal and climatic niche evolution in flowering plants. *Journal of Biogeography* 50(1): 43-56. Codes and data [here](#). 10.1111/jbi.14292

2022

[43] Bochorny T, Bacci LF, Reginato M, **Vasconcelos T**, Michelangeli FA, Goldenberg R. 2022. Similar diversification patterns in “sky islands”: A comparative approach in lineages from *campo rupestre* and *campo de altitude*. *Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics* 57: 125700. 10.1016/j.ppees.2022.125700 [role: interpretation and writing]

[42] Low YW, Rajaraman S, Tomlin CM, Ahmad JA, Ardi WH, Armstrong K, Athen P, Berhaman A, Bone RE, Cheek A, Cho NRW, Choo LM, Cowie ID, Crayn D, Fleck S, Ford AJ, Foster PI, Girmansyah D, Goyder DJ, Gray B, Heatubun CD, Ibrahim A, brahim B, Jayasinghe HD, Kalat MA, Kathriarachchi HS, Khew GSW, Kintamani E, Koh SL, Lai JTK, Lee SML, Leong PFK, Lim WH, Lum SKY, Mahyuni R, McDonald WJF, Metali F, Mustaqim WA, Naiki A, Ngo KM, Niissalo M, Ranasinghe S, Repin R, Rustiami H, Salojarvi J, Simbiak VI, Sukri RS, Sunarti S, Trethowan L, Trias-Blasi A, **Vasconcelos T**, Wanma JF, Widodo P, Wijesundara DSA, Worboys S, Yap JW, Yong KT, Michael TP, Middleton DJ, Burslem DFRP, Lindqvist C, Lucas EJ, Albert VA. 2022. Genomic insights into rapid speciation within the world’s largest tree genus *Syzygium*. *Nature Communications* 13: 5031. 10.1038/s41467-022-32637-x

[41] **Vasconcelos T***, O’Meara BC, Beaulieu JM. 2022. A flexible method for estimating tip diversification rates across a range of speciation and extinction scenarios. *Evolution* 76(7): 1420-1433. 10.1111/evo.14517

[40] **Brazilian Flora Group** 2021. 2022. Brazilian Flora 2020: Leveraging the power of a collaborative scientific network. *Taxon* 71(1), 178-198. 10.1002/tax.12640

[39] Melo LRF, **Vasconcelos T**, Caetano APS, de Brito VGL. 2022. Stamen diversity in Melastomataceae: morphology, color and function. Chapter in the book: *Advances in melastome systematics and biology* (Springer/Nature)

[38] Leal ES, **Vasconcelos T**, Tuberquia D, Gomez MS, Michelangeli FA, Forzza RC, Mello-Silva R. 2022. Phylogeny and historical biogeography of Cyclanthaceae (Pandanales), the Panama-hat family. *Taxon* 71(5), 963-980. 10.1002/tax.12769

[37] Proença C, Tuler A, Lucas E, **Vasconcelos T**, Faria J, Staggemeier V, de-Carvalho P, Forni-Martins E, Inglis P, Mata L, Costa I. 2022. Diversity, Phylogeny and Evolution of the rapidly diversifying genus *Psidium* L. (Myrtaceae, Myrteae). *Annals of Botany* 129(4), 367-388. 10.1093/aob/mcac005

[36] Neto, JDS, dos Santos EK, Lucas E, Vetö NM, Barrientos-Diaz O, Staggemeier VC, **Vasconcelos T**, Turchetto-Zolet AC. 2022. Advances and perspectives on the evolutionary history and diversification of Neotropical Myrtaceae. *Botanical Journal of the Linnean Society*. 199(1), 173-195. 10.1093/botlinnean/boab095

[35] Palma-Silva C, Turchetto-Zolet AC, Fay MF, **Vasconcelos T.*** 2022. Drivers of exceptional Neotropical biodiversity: an updated view. *Botanical Journal of the Linnean Society*. 199(1), 1-7.

[34] **Vasconcelos T***, O'Meara BC, Beaulieu JM. 2022. Retiring “cradles” and “museums” of biodiversity. *The American Naturalist* 199(2), 194-205. [10.1086/717412](https://doi.org/10.1086/717412)

2021

[33] dos Santos LL, Forest F, Lima DF, Sales MF, **Vasconcelos TNC**, Staggemeier VG, Lucas E. 2021. Phylogenetic and biogeographic analysis in *Myrcia* sect. *Myrcia* (*Myrcia* s.l., Myrtaceae) with focus on highly polyphyletic *Myrcia splendens*. 2021. *International Journal of Plant Sciences* 182(9), 778-792. [10.1086/715639](https://doi.org/10.1086/715639)

[32] Santos LL, **Vasconcelos TNC**, Sales MF, Lucas E . 2021. Three new species of *Myrcia* sect. *Myrcia* (Myrtaceae) from South America. *Phytotaxa* 520(3), 249-256. [phytotaxa.520.3.3](https://doi.org/10.11646/phytotaxa.520.3.3)

[31] Maurin O, Anest A, Bellot S, Biffin E, Brewer G, Charles-Dominique T, Dodsworth S, Epitawalage N, Gallego B, Giaretta A, Goldenberg R, Gonçalves DJP, Graham S, Hoch P, Mazine F, Low YW, McGinnie C, Michelangeli FA, Morris S, Penneys DS, Pérez Escobar OA, Pillon Y, Pokorny L, Shimizu G, Staggemeier VG, Thornhill A, Tomlinson KW, Turner I, **Vasconcelos TNC**, Wilson PG, Zuntini AR, Baker WJ, Forest F, Lucas E. 2021. A nuclear phylogenomic study of the angiosperm order Myrtales, exploring the potential and limitations of the universal Angiosperms353 probe set. *American Journal of Botany* 108(7): 1087–1111. [10.1002/ajb2.1699](https://doi.org/10.1002/ajb2.1699)

[30] Rosa PO, **Vasconcelos TNC**, Lucas EJ, Proença CEB. 2021. Revisiting Glaziou and the Botany of the second Cruls Mission: three new species and 23 accepted species of *Myrcia* (Myrtaceae) collected from Goiás, Brazil and a detailed description of his “Goyaz” itinerary. *Phytotaxa*: 509(1): 25. [10.11646/phytotaxa.509.1.3](https://doi.org/10.11646/phytotaxa.509.1.3)

[29] Dantas M, Leal B, Chaves C, **Vasconcelos TNC**, Versieux L, Palma-Silva C. Underlying microevolutionary processes parallel macroevolutionary patterns in ancient neotropical Mountains. *Journal of Biogeography* 48 (9): 2312–2327. [10.1111/jbi.14154](https://doi.org/10.1111/jbi.14154)

[28] Lovo J, Alcantara S, **Vasconcelos TNC**, Sajo MC, Rudall PJ, Prenner G, Aguiar AJC, Mello-Silva R. 2021. Floral heterochrony and pollination biology in Trimezieae (Iridaceae): implications for evolutionary lability *American Journal of Botany* 108 (5):828–843. [10.1002/ajb2.1655](https://doi.org/10.1002/ajb2.1655)

[27] Melo LRF, **Vasconcelos TNC**, Reginato M, Caetano AP, Brito VLG. 2021. Evolution of stamen dimetrisism in Melastomataceae, a large radiation of pollen flowers. *Perspectives in Plant Ecology Evolution and Systematics* (48): 25589. [10.1016/j.ppees.2021.125589](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ppees.2021.125589)

2020

[26] Proença CEB, Faria JEQ, Giaretta A, Lucas EJ, Staggemeier VS, Tuler AC, **Vasconcelos TNC**. 2020. Nomenclatural and taxonomic changes in tribe Myrteae (Myrtaceae) spurred by molecular phylogenies *Heringeriana* 14(1): 49–61.

[25] Colli-Silva M, Reginato M, Cabral A, Forzza RC, Pirani JR, **Vasconcelos TNC***. 2020. Evaluating shortfalls in biodiversity documentation for the Atlantic Forest, the most diverse and threatened Brazilian phytophysognomic domain. *Taxon* 69 (3): 567–577. [10.1002/tax.12239](https://doi.org/10.1002/tax.12239)

[24] Sperotto P, Acevedo-Rodríguez P, **Vasconcelos TNC**, Roque N. 2020. Towards a standardization of the terminology for the climbing habit in plants. *The Botanical Review* 86: 180–210. [10.1007/s12229-020-09218-y](https://doi.org/10.1007/s12229-020-09218-y)

- [23] Reginato M, **Vasconcelos TNC**, Kriebel R, Simões A. 2020. Is dispersal mode a driver of diversification and geographical distribution in the diverse tropical plant family Melastomataceae? *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution* 148: 106815. [10.1016/j.ympev.2020.106815](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ympev.2020.106815)
- [22] **Vasconcelos TNC***, Alcantara S, Andrino C, Forest F, Reginato M, Simon M, Pirani JR. 2020. Plant diversification in the highly diverse *campo rupestre* reveals rapid and recent radiations in ancient mountaintops. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B* 287: 20192933. [10.1098/rspb.2019.2933](https://doi.org/10.1098/rspb.2019.2933)
- [21] Almeida RBP, Antar GM, **Vasconcelos TNC**, Santos LL, Amorim BS. 2020. *Myrcia lucasae* (Myrtaceae), a new species from the *campo rupestre* of Chapada Diamantina, Brazil. *Phytotaxa* 435 (3): 227–234. [10.11646/phytotaxa.435.3.2](https://doi.org/10.11646/phytotaxa.435.3.2)
- [20] Aguiar A, Melo G, **Vasconcelos TNC**, Goncalves R, Giuliano L, Martins A. 2020. Biogeography and early diversification of Tapinotaspidini oil-bees support presence of Paleocene savannas in South America. *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution* 143: 106692. [10.1016/j.ympev.2020.106815](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ympev.2020.106815)
- [19] **Vasconcelos TNC***, Lucas E, Giaretta A, Conejero M, Prenner G. 2020. Convergent evolution in calyptrate flowers of Syzygieae (Myrtaceae) *Botanical Journal of the Linnean Society*. 192 (3): 498–509. [10.1093/botlinnean/boz105](https://doi.org/10.1093/botlinnean/boz105)

2019

- [18] Lucas EL, Holst B, Sobral M, Mazine FF, Nic Lughadha EM, Proença CEB, **Vasconcelos TNC***. 2019. A new infra-generic classification of the predominantly South American tribe Myrteae (Myrtaceae) *Systematic Botany* 44(3): 560–569. [10.1600/036364419X15620113920608](https://doi.org/10.1600/036364419X15620113920608)
- [17] **Vasconcelos TNC***, Prenner G, Lucas EJ 2019. A systematic overview of floral diversity in Myrteae (Myrtaceae). *Systematic Botany* 44(3): 570–591. [10.1600/036364419X15620113920617](https://doi.org/10.1600/036364419X15620113920617)
- [16] Giaretta A, **Vasconcelos TNC**, Mazine FF, Faria JEQ, Flores R, Holst B, Sano PT, Lucas E. 2019. Calyx (con)fusion in a hyper-diverse genus: parallel evolution of unusual flower patterns in *Eugenia* (Myrtaceae). *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution*. 139: 106553. [10.1016/j.ympev.2019.106553](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ympev.2019.106553)
- [15] Amorim BS, **Vasconcelos TNC**, Souza G, Alves M, Antonelli A, Lucas E. 2019. Advanced understanding of phylogenetic relationships, morphological evolution, and biogeographic history of the mega-diverse plant genus *Myrcia* and its relatives (Myrtaceae: Myrteae). *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution* 138: 65–88. [10.1016/j.ympev.2019.05.014](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ympev.2019.05.014)
- [14] Nic Lughadha E, Staggemeier V, **Vasconcelos TNC**, Walker B, Canteiro C, Lucas E. 2019. Harnessing the potential of integrated systematics for the conservation of taxonomically complex, megadiverse plant groups. *Conservation Biology* 33: 511–522. [10.1111/cobi.13289](https://doi.org/10.1111/cobi.13289)
- [13] De la Estrella M, Buerki S, **Vasconcelos TNC**, Lucas E, Forest F. 2019. The role of antarctica in biogeographical reconstruction: a point of view. *International Journal of Plant Sciences* 180: 63–71. [10.1086/700581](https://doi.org/10.1086/700581)
- [12] Colli-Silva M, **Vasconcelos TNC**, Pirani JR. 2019. Outstanding plant endemism levels strongly support the recognition of *campo rupestre* bioregions in mountaintops of eastern South America *Journal of Biogeography* 46:1723–1733. [10.1111/jbi.13585](https://doi.org/10.1111/jbi.13585)

[11] **Vasconcelos TNC***, Chartier M, Prenner G, Martins AC, Schönenberger J, et al. 2019. Floral uniformity through evolutionary time in a species-rich tree lineage. *New Phytologist* 221(3): 1597–1608. [10.1111/nph.15453](https://doi.org/10.1111/nph.15453)

2018

[10] **Vasconcelos TNC***, Lucas EJ, Faria JE, Prenner G. 2018. Floral heterochrony promotes flexibility of reproductive strategies in the morphologically homogeneous genus *Eugenia* (Myrtaceae). *Annals of Botany* 121: 161–174. [10.1093/aob/mcx142](https://doi.org/10.1093/aob/mcx142)

[9] Mazine FF, Faria JEQ, Giaretta A, **Vasconcelos TNC**, Forest F, Lucas E. 2018 Phylogeny and biogeography of the hyper diverse genus *Eugenia* (Myrtaceae: Myrteae), with emphasis on sect. *Umbellatae*, the most unmanageable clade. *Taxon* 67(4): 752–769. [10.12705/674.5](https://doi.org/10.12705/674.5)

[8] BFG 2018, **Vasconcelos TNC**. 2018 Brazilian Flora 2020: Innovation and collaboration to meet Target 1 of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC) *Rodriguesia* 69(4): 1513–1527. [10.1590/2175-7860201869402](https://doi.org/10.1590/2175-7860201869402)

[7] Lucas EJ, Amorim BS, Lima DF, Lima-Lourenço AR, Nic Lughadha EM, Proença CEB, Rosa PO, Rosário AS, Santos LL, Santos MF, Souza MC, Staggemeier VG, **Vasconcelos TNC**, Sobral M. 2018. A new infra-generic classification of the species-rich Neotropical genus *Myrcia* s.l. *Kew Bulletin* 73(1): 9. [10.1007/S12225-017-9730-5](https://doi.org/10.1007/S12225-017-9730-5)

[6] **Vasconcelos TNC***, Lucas EJ, Peguero B. 2018. One new species, two new combinations and taxonomic notes on the All-spice genus *Pimenta* (Myrtaceae) from Hispaniola. *Phytotaxa* 348 (1): 32–40. [10.11646/phytotaxa.348.1.4](https://doi.org/10.11646/phytotaxa.348.1.4)

2017

[5] **Vasconcelos TNC***, Proença CE, Ahmad B, Aguilar DS, Aguilar R, Amorim BS, et al. 2017. Myrteae phylogeny, calibration, biogeography and diversification patterns: Increased understanding in the most species rich tribe of Myrtaceae. *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution* 109: 113–137. [10.1016/j.ympev.2017.01.002](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ympev.2017.01.002)

[4] **Vasconcelos TNC***, Prenner G, Santos MF, Wingler A, Lucas EJ. 2017. Links between parallel evolution and systematic complexity in angiosperms: A case study of floral development in *Myrcia* sl (Myrtaceae). *Perspectives in Plant Ecology Evolution and Systematics* 24: 11–24. [10.1016/j.ppees.2016.11.001](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ppees.2016.11.001)

2015

[3] **Vasconcelos TNC***, Silva JS, Ianhez ML, Proença CE. 2015. Floristic survey of the Brazilian Ages Memorial: a Cerrado *sensu stricto* area with an educational relevance. *Check List* 11(4): 1689. [10.15560/11.4.1689](https://doi.org/10.15560/11.4.1689)

[2] **Vasconcelos TNC***, Proença CE. 2015. Floral cost vs. floral display: Insights from the megadiverse Myrtales suggest that energetically expensive floral parts are less phylogenetically constrained. *American Journal of Botany* 102(6): 900–909. [10.3732/ajb.1400509](https://doi.org/10.3732/ajb.1400509)

[1] **Vasconcelos TNC***, Prenner G, Büniger MO, De-Carvalho PS, Wingler A, Lucas EJ. 2015. Systematic and evolutionary implications of stamen position in Myrteae (Myrtaceae). *Botanical Journal of the Linnean Society* 179(3): 388–402. [10.1111/boj.12328](https://doi.org/10.1111/boj.12328)

AWARDS

2022: Journal of Biogeography Innovation Award

2018: John C. Marsden Medal for best PhD thesis in Biology in the UK. Linnean Society of London.

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

2026: NSF CAREER. National Science Foundation, Division of Environmental Biology, Systematics and Biodiversity Science Cluster (US): **PI: Thais Vasconcelos**. “Combining traits, phylogenies, and historical data to predict and quantify rates of plant geographic movements”. **US\$1,093,219**.

2026: UM’s Research Funding Program for federally reviewed proposals (Highly Rated, Declined Proposals). “Neotropical myrtles: phylogeny, conservation, and spatial diversification of a key tropical plant lineage” **US\$86,666**

2025: OpenAI. NextGenAI collaboration between U-M and OpenAI. **PI: Thais Vasconcelos**. Co-PI: Jame Boyko. Co-PI: Marjorie Weber. “Global patterns and drivers of flower color evolution”, Requested amount: **US\$44,191.68**

2025: Biodiversity Exploration Funds (internal). **PI: Thais Vasconcelos**. Building a species level phylogeny of neotropical myrtles, a key tropical plant lineage. **US\$11,125**.

2022: Serrapilheira. PI: Vanessa Staggemeier (UFRN - Brazil). Main collaborators: Carol Proença (UnB - Brazil), Thais N. C. Vasconcelos (University of Michigan), Eve Lucas, Eimear Nic Lughadha (Royal Botanic Gardens Kew - UK). Project: “Unlocking the biodiversity treasure chest: exploring genes and museum collections to conserve Atlantic Forest diversity and promote citizen-science” up to R\$100,000 (**approx. US\$18,000**)

2019: FAPESP (grant number 2019/18627-6, two-month personal travel grant). Recipient: Raquel Cruz Pizzardo. **PI: Thais N. C. Vasconcelos**; co-PI: Eimear NicLughadha (Royal Botanic Gardens Kew - UK). Grant for academic visit at the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew. Project: “Combining risk assessment and evolutionary distinctiveness in the conservation of *Chamaecrista* ser. *Coriaceae* (Fabaceae) from the Espinhaço Range”. c. R\$19,000 (**approx. US\$3,700**)

2019: FAPESP (grant number 2019/15929-1, one-year personal travel grant). Applicant: Thais N. C. Vasconcelos. PI: José Rubens Pirani (USP - Brazil); co-PI Felix Forest (Royal Botanic Gardens Kew - UK). Grant for academic visit at the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew. Project: “How montane environments drive plant diversity and distribution: biogeographical connections and diversification dynamics in the mega-diverse Brazilian *campo rupestre*”. c. R\$ 300,000 (**approx. US\$58,200**)

2019: Serrapilheira. PI: Fernanda Antunes Carvalho (UFMG - Brazil). Main collaborators: Aline Martins (UnB - Brazil), Thais N. C. Vasconcelos, Alex Antonelli (Royal Botanic Gardens Kew - UK), Sidonie Bellot (Royal Botanic Gardens Kew - UK), Antonio Aguiar (UnB - Brazil). Project: “Plant pollinator interactions in the Cerrado hotspot: filling knowledge gaps with pollen DNA-metabarcoding”. R\$100,000 (**approx. US\$19,500**)

2019: FAP-DF. PI: Carolyn Proença (UnB - Brazil). Main collaborators: Fernanda Antunes Carvalho (UFMG - Brazil), Aline Martins (UnB - Brazil), Thais N. C. Vasconcelos. “The

specialization of plant-pollinator interactions: metabarcoding as a tool to characterize plant species visited by stingless bees in the Cerrado”. R\$60,000 (**approx. US\$12,000**).

2019: Bentham-Moxon Trust. Recipient: Thais N. C. Vasconcelos. Travel award to the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew. Project: “Evolution and conservation of the Brazilian *campo rupestre* flora” £900 (**approx. US\$1,300**)

2019: Society for the Study of Evolution (SSE). Recipient: Thais N. C. Vasconcelos. Travel award to attend the Evolution meeting in Providence – RI. **US\$500**

2018: FAPESP (grant number 2018/24601-7) Recipient: Raquel Cruz Pizzardo. PI: Thais N. C. Vasconcelos. Bursary for undergraduate internship. R\$9,183 (**approx. US\$1,800**)

2018: FAPESP (grant number 2018/24601-7) Recipient: Mirian de Carmargo Antonicelli. PI: Thais N. C. Vasconcelos. Bursary for undergraduate internship. R\$9,183 (**approx. US\$1,800**)

2018: FAPESP (personal postdoc fellowship, grant number 2018/02191-1) Recipient: Thais N. C. Vasconcelos. PI: José Rubens Pirani (USP – Brazil). Project: “Diversification and conservation of the montane flora of the Espinhaco Range”. R\$ 209,497 (**approx. US\$41,000**).

2017: Bentham-Moxon Trust. Recipient: Thais N. C. Vasconcelos. Travel award to attend the 68o Brazilian Conference of Botany. £1,000 (**approx. US\$1,400**)

2016: Emily Holmes Memorial Scholarship. Recipient: Thais N. C. Vasconcelos. Award to cover laboratorial fees at the Jodrell Laboratory (RBG-Kew). £900 (**approx. US\$1,300**)

2016: University of Vienna. Recipient: Thais N. C. Vasconcelos. Travel award to give a seminar at the Department of Botany and Biodiversity Research. EUR€ 484 (**approx. US\$580**)

2015: Emily Holmes Memorial Scholarship. Recipient: Thais N. C. Vasconcelos. Travel award for fieldwork in Southeast Asia and New Caledonia. £1,500 (**approx. US\$2,100**)

2013: CAPES (via “Science Without Borders” program): Recipient: Thais N. C. Vasconcelos. PI: Astrid Wingler (University College London - UK); Co-PIs: Eve Lucas (Royal Botanic Gardens Kew - UK), Gerhard Prenner (Royal Botanic Gardens Kew - UK). Personal PhD fellowship, grant number 7512-13-9. Project: “Morphological homogeneity, phylogenetic heterogeneity and systematic complexity in species-rich groups: a case study of floral evolution in Myrteae (Myrtaceae)”. £144,600 (Includes UCL’s university fees as international student) (**approx. US\$200,000**)

2012: FAP-DF: Recipient: Thais N. C. Vasconcelos Travel grant to spend a month as an academic visitor at the Royal Botanic Garden Kew. R\$ 10,000 (**approx. US\$2,000**)

2012: UnB graduate department: Recipient: Thais N. C. Vasconcelos Travel grant to visit the collection of the Rio de Janeiro Botanic Garden. R\$750 (**approx. US\$150**)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

BIO230 Plant Biology. University of Michigan (main instructor)

EEB445 Biogeography. University of Michigan (main instructor)

2019: Short course on “Biogeography of the Neotropical region” (during the CAEB – Unicamp, Brazil). Main lecturer.

2019: “Biogeography and Diversification of the Neotropical biota” (undergraduate course – Universidade de São Paulo, Brazil). Teaching Assistant.

2018: Short course on “Ecology and Evolution of Pollination” (during the I SimBio – Universidade de Brasília, Brazil). Main lecturer.

2018: “Macroevolution” module during “Molecular ecology” graduate course (UNESP – Rio Claro, Brazil). Main lecturer.

2012: “Botany” (undergraduate course – Universidade de Brasília, Brazil). Teaching Assistant.

SUPERVISIONS

Postdoctoral fellows

2026 – present: Lazaro Conceição. Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of Michigan. Project: “An integrative approach to resolving species boundaries in neotropical myrtles”.

2025 – present: Eric Hagen. Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of Michigan. Project: “The role of temperature variation in the evolution of plant traits”.

2023 – 2025: Aline Martins. Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of Michigan. Project: “Evolutionary and ecological consequences of the global bee-angiosperm diversity mismatch”.

PhD students

2026 – present: Dylan Sheng. Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of Michigan.

2023 – present: Lena Heinrich. Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of Michigan. Project: “How do functional and life history traits mediate bee-plant interactions and distributions?”

2023 – present: Paulo Henrique Gaem. Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of Michigan. Project: “Understanding the flourish of the species-rich, but overwhelmingly homogeneous Neotropical myrtles”

2021 – 2024: Thiago Fernandes (co-supervision) – Rio de Janeiro Botanic Garden – Brazil. Project: “O gênero *Myrcia* no Estado do Rio de Janeiro: taxonomia e conservação da flora fluminense”. Main advisor: João M. A. Braga.

2021 – present: Patricia Steiner Sperotto (co-supervision) – Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul – Brazil. Project: “What drives the exceptional diversity of the tropical flora? A multidisciplinary approach linking traits, distribution and diversification in Melastomataceae”. Main advisor: Marcelo Reginato.

2019 – 2023: Lilian Rodrigues Ferreira de Melo (co-supervision) – Universidade Federal de Uberlândia – Brazil (March/2019 – present). Project: “Evolution and diversification of pollen flowers in Angiosperms”. Main advisor: Vinicius L. G. de Brito.

Visiting graduate students

2026-2027: Beatriz Barcelos Costa Lira. UNESP Botucatu – Brazil. Project: “Investigating general patterns of plastomes of the Papilionoideae subfamily (Leguminosae)”

2024-2025: Aya Mortada. UNIMORE – Italy. Project: “The role of seeds in the conservation of Italian orchids”.

2023-2024: Milena Telhe. Universidade Federal de Sao Carlos – Brazil. Project: “Correlations between biome shifts, diversification, and trait evolution in genera from Cereinae subtribe (Cactaceae)”.

2023: Hercilia Freitas da Cunha. Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Norte – Brazil. Project: “What can Myrtaceae fruits and seeds reveal about the success of this plant family in the Neotropics”.

MSc students

2024 – 2026: Yacov Kilsztajn (co-supervision) – Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Norte – Brazil. Project: “Evolution of functional traits in Neotropical Myrtaceae and their correlations with environmental factors”. Main advisor: Vanessa Staggemeier.

2022 – 2024: Hercilia Freitas da Cunha (co-supervision) – Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Norte – Brazil. Project: “What can Myrtaceae fruits and seeds reveal about the success of this plant family in the Neotropics”. Main advisor: Vanessa Staggemeier.

2018 – 2020: Patricia Steiner Sperotto (co-supervision) – Universidade Federal da Bahia – Brazil. Project: “Neotropical climbers: a nomenclatural review and drivers in diversification”. Main advisor: Nádia Roque.

Undergraduate students

2025 – present: Maguire Topping – University of Michigan (September/2025 – present). Project: “Understanding seed masting from herbarium specimens”. Independent Research (EEB300).

2025 – present: Callan McKernan – University of Michigan (September/2025 – present). Project: “Trends in DNA extraction yield from preserved specimens of *Myrcia* spp”. Independent Research (EEB300).

2025: Benjamin Wei – University of Michigan (May/2025 – July/2025). Project: “Trends in DNA extraction yield from preserved specimens of *Myrcia* spp.”. Independent Research (EEB300).

2025: Danielle Agyemang – University of Michigan (July/2025 – December/2025) Project: “Systematics of Lauraceae”. Independent Research (EEB300).

2025: Samantha Molino – University of Michigan (May/2025 – August/2025) Project: “From field to folder: traits measured from herbarium specimens are flattened but functional”. Abe Scholar.

2024 – 2025: Ari Hoffman – University of Michigan (September/2024 – present) Project: “Assessing Plant Awareness Disparity in Southeast Michigan”. UROP project.

2023: Jonathan Sarasa – University of Michigan (August/2023 – December/2023) Project: “Exploring Darwin’s Naturalization Conundrum Using Global Datasets of Plant Species Distributions”. Independent Research (EEB300).

2023: Dahlia Rose – University of Michigan (June – August/2023) Project: “Testing viability of herbarium seeds in evening primroses (*Oenothera*, Onagraceae)”.

2023 – 2024: Zoe Bugnaski – University of Michigan (January – August/2023, May – September/2024). Projects: “Flora of Michigan: trait-environment correlations”; “Testing viability of herbarium seeds in evening primroses (*Oenothera*, Onagraceae)”. Independent Research (EEB300).

2023: Emily Lancaster – University of Michigan (January – August/2023) Project: “Flora of Michigan: trait-environment correlations”. Independent Research (EEB300).

2023: Natalie Neumann – University of Michigan (January – August/2023) Project: “Flora of Michigan: trait-environment correlations”. Independent Research (BIO200).

2018 – 2021: Raquel Cruz Pizzardo – Universidade de São Paulo, Brazil (October/2018 – March/2021) Project: “The challenge of tracing conservation policies in naturally fragmented habitats: the flora of the Espinhaço Range in a scenario of climate change”.

2018 – 2021: Mirian de Camargo Andrade Antonicelli – Universidade de São Paulo, Brazil (October/2018 – March/2021). Project: “Morphological traits associated to montane habitats: *Tibouchina* (Melastomataceae) as a study case”.

PANELIST

2024: “Evolving the publishing system” panel. Virtual Evolution 2024.

2024: “Thriving in Michigan”. LSA Collegiate Fellow program. (University of Michigan, USA).

2023: Leveraging natural history collections to understand global change (Natural History Museum, UK). “What next? How do we harness this information to conserve biodiversity and facilitate change?”.

INVITED TALKS

March 2026: “Herbaria as tools for exploring the evolution of trait-environment relationships in flowering plants”. Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh.

February 2025: “Herbaria as tools for exploring the evolution of trait-environment relationships in flowering plants”. Oklahoma State University, OK.

May 2023: “Discovering the rules of plant biogeography using a trait-based approach”. Armour Watson seminar series at the Field Museum, IL.

February 2023: “Discovering the rules of plant biogeography using a trait-based approach”. Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, UK.

November 2022: “Discovering the rules of plant biogeography using a trait-based approach”. University of Colorado-Boulder, CO.

October 2021: “The role of the landscape in the diversification of the flowering plants”. Pittsburg State University, KS.

October 2020: “The role of the landscape in the diversification of the flowering plants”. Oklahoma State University, OK. (virtual)

October 2020: “The role of the landscape in the diversification of the flowering plants”. University of Oklahoma, OK. (virtual)

SERVICE

Associate editor:

2024 – present: *American Journal of Botany*

2020 – 2025: *Botanical Journal of the Linnean Society*

2022 – 2023: *Journal of Biogeography*

2019 – Feb/2022: *Plant Systematics and Evolution*

Reviewer for:

Journals: *Acta Botanica Brasilica*; *American Journal of Botany*; *Annals of Botany*; *Biodiversity and Conservation*; *Biological Journal of the Linnean Society*; *Biotropica*; *Botanical Journal of the Linnean Society*; *Brittonia*; *Current Biology*; *Ecology and Evolution*; *Ecography*; *Ecology Letters*; *Evolution*; *Global Ecology and Biogeography*; *iScience*; *International Journal of Plants Sciences*; *Journal of Biogeography*; *Journal of Ecology*; *Methods in Ecology and Evolution*; *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution*; *Nature Communications*; *Nature Ecology and Evolution*; *New Phytologist*; *Nordic Journal of Botany*; *Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics*; *Plant Systematics and Evolution*; *Phytotaxa*; *Proceedings B*; *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*; *Systematics and Biodiversity*; *Systematic Biology*; *Taxon*; *Trees*; *The American Naturalist*.

Funding agencies: American Philosophical Society (USA), São Paulo Research Foundation (FAPESP, Brazil); German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv, Germany); National Science Foundation (NSF, USA).

Elected councilor: Society of Systematic Biologists (until Dec 2027)

SCIENCE OUTREACH

2025: University of Michigan Museum of Natural History Farrand Lecture. “ScentStories: Exploring the Plant World Through A.I. & Aroma”. [[link](#)]

2025: MLive feature “Childhood walks inspired University of Michigan naturalist. Now she oversees 1.7M plant specimens” [[link](#)]

2025: University of Michigan Museum of Natural History ID DAY. (Plant and Fungi booth)

2025: University of Michigan Matthaei Botanical Gardens. “Leaves under the Lens” exhibit. (collaborator)

2024: University of Michigan Museum of Natural History ID DAY. (Plant and Fungi booth)

2024: University of Michigan Museum of Natural History. Nature's Pharmacy collections case exhibit. (collaborator)

2023: “A ‘tape recorder for the planet’: what natural history museums bring to the climate fight”. Reasons to be Cheerful [[link](#)]

2022: “Overcoming challenges in measuring how seed dispersal and climatic niche evolution are connected in plants”. *Journal of Biogeography* – highlighted papers [[link](#)]

2019: “Women in Science” – Invited talk at the Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina (Brazil)

2019: “The history of plants is linked to the history of people” -- Invited talk about being a scientist in Brazil. Opening talk at the 39th Regional Botany Meeting (MG, ES and BA, Brazil).

2019: New *Phytologist* Volume 221, Issue 3 cover photo and blog post. [[link](#)]

2018: Interview to “Globo – G1”: “Pesquisadora de Brasília ganha prêmio de 'melhor tese de biologia' do Reino Unido” (“Researcher from Brasilia is awarded with the prize of ‘best thesis in biology’ of the United Kingdom”) [[link](#)]

2018: Interview to “Correio Braziliense”: “Tese de ex-UnB é considerada a mais importante para a biologia no mundo” (“Thesis from ex-University of Brasilia is considered one of the most important in biology”) [[link](#)]

2018: Interview to “For Women in Science” (Loreal Foundation) “Cientista brasileira ganha prêmio de melhor tese de biologia no Reino Unido” (“Brazilian scientist is awarded with prize for best thesis in biology in the United Kingdom”) [[link](#)]

2018: Interview to “CAPES”: “Pesquisadora brasileira é premiada pela Linnean Society de Londres” (“Brazilian researcher receives award from the Linnean Society of London”) [[link](#)]

2018: Short newspaper article to the “Jornal do SindCT”: “A Biodiversidade e porque isso importa” (“Biodiversity and why it matters”) (April, 2018)

2017: Kew Science Festival: A two-days activity explaining my PhD project to the public at the 2017 Kew Science Festival. (July, 2017)

2013: Interview to “TV Senado”: “A importância da ilustração científica para a botânica” (“The importance of scientific illustration to botany”). (July, 2013)

ACTIVE SOCIETY MEMBERSHIPS

Botanical Society of America (BSA)

Society of Systematic Biologists (SSB)