

DAMLA CINOGLU

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Education

Ph.D in Ecology, Evolution and Behavior, University of Texas at Austin 2025
Dissertation title: Life history, herbivory, and light: Untangling the biotic and abiotic drivers and consequences of plant diversity
Graduate Portfolio in Applied Statistics, University of Texas at Austin 2024

B.S. in Environmental Sciences and Economics, University of Virginia 2019
Honors thesis title: Post-fire Interactions between *Ceanothus* spp. and Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) in the Klamath Mountains

Academic Appointments

Graduate Research Assistant, University of Texas at Austin Spring 2020, 2021-2022
Department of Integrative Biology — Advisor: Dr. Caroline Farrior

Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of Texas at Austin Fall 2019, Fall 2020

Research Experience

Graduate Research Fellow, University of Texas at Austin 2021-2022, 2023-2024, 2024-2025
Department of Integrative Biology — Advisor: Dr. Caroline Farrior

Undergraduate Research Assistant, University of Virginia 2017-2019
Department of Environmental Sciences — Advisor: Dr. Howard Epstein

Undergraduate Field and Lab Assistant, University of Virginia 2018
Department of Environmental Sciences — Advisor: Dr. David Carr, Dr. T'ai Roulston

Honors and Awards

Marion Elizabeth Eason Award for the Study of Biology - \$1100 2024

ESA Southwestern Emerging Ecologist Award - \$500 2023

Texas 2021 Stand Up For STEM Award - Million Women Mentors Texas Chapter 2021
Awarded to recognize a demonstrated passion for a STEM and associated careers and willingness to share skills and knowledge through role modeling and mentoring others.

Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Professional Development Award - \$250 2021

BIO Outstanding TA Award Finalist, University of Texas at Austin 2021

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NCS Student Faculty/Staff Appreciation Award, University of Texas at Austin 2020
Nominated by the students of the Introductory Biology II lecture in 2019.

ESA Physiological Ecology Section Travel Award - \$500 2019

Distinguished Majors with High Honors in Environmental Sciences, University of Virginia 2019
Applied with a thesis proposal to the Environmental Sciences department chair. Defended a 50-page undergraduate thesis to the departmental committee and passed without conditions. “High Honors” status is approved by six faculty committee members.

Dean’s Honor list, University of Virginia 2017-2019
Awarded to students who maintain a GPA above 3.5 for graded credits.

Echols Scholar, University of Virginia 2015-2019
Award only received by 4 of the incoming study body. This scholarship allows for academic flexibility, priority in class scheduling and additional academic resources.

Publications

1. Decker, R.R., **D. Cinoğlu**, C.E. Farrior. Stochastic forest gaps and competition for light can drive deterministic evolutionary branching. In Review (available upon request), *The American Naturalist*.
2. **Cinoğlu, D.**, N. Rüger, R.R. Decker, C.E. Farrior (2025). Small disturbances and subsequent competition for light can maintain a diversity of demographic strategies in a neotropical forest: Results from model–data integration. *Journal of Ecology* (00):1-14. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1365-2745.70118>
3. Cusack, D.F., S. Reed, K.M. Andersen, **D. Cinoğlu**, M.E. Craig, L.H. Dietterich, J.A. Hogan et al. (2024). Tropical forests and global change: biogeochemical responses and opportunities for cross-site comparisons, an organized INSPIRE session at the 108th Annual Meeting, Ecological Society of America, Portland, Oregon, USA, August 2023. *New Phytologist* (241):1922-1926.
4. Robinson, M., K. Abbott, L. Abdala- Roberts, W. Allen, J. Andrade, D. Angulo, D. Anjos,..., **D. Cinoğlu** et al.(190 authors) (2023). Plant size, latitude, and phylogeny explain variability in global herbivory. *Science* (382):679-683.
5. McGuire, R., K. Hayashi, X. Yan, M. Carita Vaz, **D. Cinoğlu**, M. Cowen, L. Sullivan, A. Martínez-Blancas, S. Vazquez-Morales, and G.S. Kandlikar (2022). EcoEvoApps: interactive applications for teaching quantitative models in ecology and evolution. *Ecology and Evolution* 12(12).
6. **Cinoğlu, D.**, H.E. Epstein, A.J. Tepley, K.J. Anderson-Teixeira, J.R. Thompson, and S.S. Perakis (2021). Climatic Aridity Shapes Post-Fire Interactions between *Ceanothus* spp. and Douglas-Fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) across the Klamath Mountains. *Forests* (12):1567.

Funding

Stengl-Wyer Graduate Fellowship - \$55,000 2024-2025

The University of Texas Graduate Continuing Fellowship - \$55,000 2023-2024

Enhanced UT Austin Graduate Fellowship - \$32,500 and \$2500 annually 2019-2024

The Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute Short Term Fellowship - \$6000 2023

Department of Integrative Biology, Research Grant - \$8400 2023

Ari Yehiel Blattstein Endowed Presidential Scholarship - \$2500 2023

Billie L. Turner Plant Resources Center Department of Integrative Biology, The Linda Escobar Award - \$2000 2022

Texas Career Engagement Office, Professional Development Award - \$3700 2021, 2022
An Introduction to Building your Professional Website: Basic Programming and Nuanced Website Content Skills

Office of the Provost, University of Texas, ACT (Actions of Community Transformation) Seed Grant - \$10,000 2021, 2022
Empowering women in STEM to become community leaders through mentorship

Native Plant Society of Texas, Graduate Student Fellowship - \$2500 2021
Predicting the biodiversity-ecosystem functioning relationship in a central native Texan grassland: a controlled, field experiment

Presentations (* show mentored undergraduate assistants.)

Oral Presentations

1. Benitez, L., Adams, E., Ortiz, S., **Cinoğlu, D.**, Wolf, A., Jha, S. Flowering phenology across plant richness and insect presence in an experimental Texas Blackland Prairie grassland. Botanical Society of America, Annual Meeting. July 26, 2025.
2. Muller-Landau, H.C., Chesson, P., Chisholm, R., **Cinoğlu, D.**, Comita, L., Connolly, S., D'Andrea, R., De, S., Dent, D., Detto, M., Ellner, S., Farrior, C., Gilbert, G., Hernandez, R., Kalyuzhny, M., Longo, M., Maes, D., Milici, V., O'Dwyer, J., Shoemaker, L., Smith, D.J.B., Staggs, J., Visser, M., Wright, S.J., Ostling, A. Looking Beyond the Lamppost: Future Directions in Understanding Tropical Tree Communities. Association for Tropical Biology and Conversation, Annual Meeting. June 29, 2025.
3. Decker, R.R., **Cinoğlu, D.**, Farrior, C.E. Opportunities for evolutionary stable successional coexistence in forests at realistic spatial and temporal scales: Diversification from a physiological trade-off. Ecological Society of America, Annual Meeting. August 8, 2024.
4. Ortiz, S.K., **Cinoğlu, D.**, Farrior, C.E., Wolf A.A. Investigating the complex relationship between plant biodiversity and functional traits in shaping ecosystem productivity and nutrient dynamics in the face of global change. Ecological Society of America, Annual Meeting. August 8, 2024.
5. Yan, X., Bowman, E., Ortiz, S.K., **Cinoğlu, D.**, Farrior, C.E., Wolf A.A. The effect of plant diversity and water availability on soil fungal communities: A field study. Ecological Society of America, Annual Meeting. August 8, 2024.
6. Vaidya, C., Ortiz, S.K., **Cinoğlu, D.**, Farrior, C.E., Jha, S., Wolf A.A. Interactive effects of drought and plant biodiversity loss reduce floral resources and alter pollinator behavior in drought-tolerant lemon beebalm (*Monarda citriodora*). Ecological Society of America, Annual Meeting. August 7, 2024.
7. **Cinoğlu, D.**, Weissflog, A., Dent, D., Farrior, C.E., Comita, L.S. Seedling insect herbivory along succession in a Neotropical forest. Ecological Society of America, Annual Meeting. August 5, 2024.
8. **Cinoğlu, D.**, Weissflog, A., Dent, D., Farrior, C.E., Comita, L.S. Seedling insect herbivory and demography along succession in a Neotropical forest. BCI 100 Years Symposium, Panama. June 19, 2024.
9. **Cinoğlu, D.**, Ortiz, S.K., Sedio, B.E., Farrior, C.E., Wolf, A.A. Interactions with insect herbivores are important for the biodiversity-ecosystem functioning relationship. Ecological Society of America, Annual Meeting. August 6, 2023.
10. Wolf, A.A., Ortiz, S.K., Farrior, C.E., **Cinoğlu, D.** Probing the mechanisms of enhanced ecosystem functioning from diversity: Resource acquisition, trophic interaction and phylogenetic diversity within plant communities. Ecological Society of America, Annual Meeting. August 6, 2023.
11. Ortiz, S.K., **Cinoğlu, D.**, Farrior, C.E., Wolf, A.A. 2023. Water availability and diversity drive rooting strategies in herbaceous plants: insights from a biodiversity experiment. Ecological Society of America, Annual Meeting. August 6, 2023.
12. **Cinoğlu, D.** Mysteries from the Neotropics: Trees, lianas and others. Science Under the Stars, Brackenridge Field Labs, Austin, Texas. May 11, 2023.
13. **Cinoğlu, D.** Aboveground traits, secondary metabolites and herbivory: a biodiversity - ecosystem functioning story. Ecology Seminar, University of Texas at Austin. March 21, 2023.
14. Tran, M.* , Farrior, C.E., and **Cinoğlu, D.**. Biodiversity Insect Herbivory: The Growth-Defense Trade-

Off. Texas Student Research Showdown (received 1st place). March 8, 2023.

15. Farrior, C.E., Decker, R.R., Bradley, M.^{*}, **Cinoğlu, D.**, and Yan, X. Can we predict the evolution of differences among species that allow for their coexistence? Ecological Society of America, Annual Meeting. August 16, 2022.

16. **Cinoğlu, D.** TxGCP Summit 2021. Empowering Women in STEM to Become Community Leaders through Mentorship: The SAGES Mentorship Program at UT Austin. December 10th, 2021.

17. **Cinoğlu, D.**, Rüger, N., Decker, R.R., Farrior, C.E. Gap dynamics help to maintain functional tradeoffs in Neotropical forest succession. Ecological Society of America, Annual Meeting. August 3, 2021.

18. **Cinoğlu, D.**, Rüger, N., Decker, R.R., Farrior, C.E. Gap dynamics help to maintain functional tradeoffs in Neotropical forest succession. Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation, Annual Meeting. July 22, 2021.

19. Farrior, C.E., **Cinoğlu, D.**, Decker, R.R. Forming experimental hypotheses to test for ecological successional strategies. High School Research Initiative, University of Texas at Austin. Summer, 2021.

20. **Cinoğlu, D.** Gap dynamics help to maintain functional tradeoffs in Neotropical forest succession. Ecology Seminar, University of Texas at Austin. October 15, 2020.

21. Farrior, C.E., **Cinoğlu, D.**, Decker, R.R. High School Research Initiative, University of Texas at Austin. Summer, 2020.

Poster Presentations

1. Dyson, A.^{*}, Farrior, C.E., **Cinoğlu, D.** Microtopography explains seedling dynamics in Panama's tropical moist forests. Ecological Society of America, Annual Meeting. August 8, 2023.

2. **Cinoğlu, D.**, Forrister, D.L., Sedio, B.E. Plant defense chemistry of woody seedlings varies with life history. BCI 100 Years Symposium, Panama. June 19, 2024.

3. Adams, E.R.M., **Cinoğlu, D.**, Ortiz, S.K., Hanson, M., Farrior, C.E., Wolf, A.A. Investigating flowering phenology and insect communities in a multiple global change factor experiment. Ecological Society of America, Annual Meeting. August 6, 2023.

4. **Cinoğlu, D.**, Ortiz, S.K., Farrior, C.E., Wolf, A.A. The effects of abiotic and biotic stress on carbon allocation in Native Texas plants. Native Plant Society of Texas, Annual Meeting. September 24, 2022.

5. Nuñez, S.^{*}, **Cinoğlu, D.** Understanding the biodiversity and ecosystem functioning relationship: Insect herbivory across a plant diversity gradient. 2022 UCLA McNair Research Conference. July 25, 2022. July 28, 2022.

6. **Cinoğlu, D.**, Ortiz, S.K. Linking above and below ground functional traits: A biodiversity-ecosystem functioning experiment. Brackenridge Field Labs, 55th year celebration May 14, 2022.

7. Bradley, M.^{*}, Decker, R.R., **Cinoğlu, D.**, Farrior, C.E. Evaluating Janzen-Connell Dynamics as a Potential Driver of Evolutionarily Stable Coexistence. Ecological Society of America, Annual Meeting. August 3, 2021.

8. **Cinoğlu, D.**, Epstein, H.E., Tepley, A.J., Anderson-Teixeira, K.J., Thompson, J.R. Post-fire Interactions between *Ceanothus* spp. and Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) in the Klamath Mountains. Ecological Society of America. August 4, 2019.

Invited Talks, Panels, Lectures, and Working groups

1. STEM Muse Learn, Ask, Act Seminar, Roots and Routes: Growing Through Challenges and Changes in STEM. 2025.

2. Department of Integrative Biology Graduate Research Symposium Keynote Speech, Science, islands, and the art of pivoting. 2025.

3. Alliance for Tropical Forest Science (ATFS) Drone working group, led by Dr. KC Cushman. 2024.

4. ForestGEO Analytical Workshop, Washington DC. Summer, 2024.

5. Tropical tree diversity working group, led by Dr. Helene Muller-Landau, BCI 100 Years Symposium. Summer, 2024.

6. Deep Dive: the PUI Experience at ESA Career Central. Ecological Society of America, Annual Meeting. Summer, 2023.

7. How to apply, survive, and thrive in graduate school? InstinctREU program. Summer, 2023.

8. Hook Talent EDU 2023 Employer Summit, Graduate Student Panelist. Summer, 2023.

9. Capital of Texas Undergraduate Research Conference, Graduate Student Judge. Spring, 2022.

10. Adaptations to Physiological and Environmental Challenges (Diverse organisms demonstrate a variety of structure function adaptations to meet physiological and environmental challenges), Lecturer invited by Dr. Monica Hall-Porter to Introductory Biology 2, Spring, 2022.
11. Texas EEB Undergraduate Student Organization, Graduate Student Panel. Spring, 2022.
12. Department of Integrative Biology Experienced Teaching Assistant Panel. Fall, 2021.
13. First-year Graduate Student Panel on Broader Impacts. Fall, 2021.
14. Unpack the Hidden Curriculum of Grad School. Fall, 2021.
15. Dive Into Research panel, Texas Undergraduate Journal. Fall, 2021.

Pedagogical Training

Inclusive Classrooms Leadership Certificate, Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, UT Austin 2023

With discussions about strategies for developing and sustaining an inclusive classroom climate, and opportunities to explore elements of course design and processes that can broaden intellectual scope and reflect the core values in the classroom.

Advanced Teaching Preparation Certificate, Faculty innovation Center, UT Austin 2022

Completed a series of seven sessions on developing teaching skills, including pedagogical theory, cognitive learning theories, inclusive teaching practices, working with students with disabilities, structuring lesson plans, fostering student participation, and assessment.

Concentration in Teaching and Mentoring, TIDES, UT Austin 2022

Including courses such as “Evidence-based Teaching”, “Inclusive teaching”, “Lesson Plan Development”, “Instructional Practice”, “Mentoring Undergraduate Research”, and “Online Teaching”.

Biology Instructional Office Teaching Assistant Workshop 2019

Teaching Experience

Course Designer and Instructor, Integrative Biology, University of Texas at Austin Spring 2024, Summer 2024

Introduction to R for Life Sciences

Designed and taught a course to undergraduate students in the College of Natural Sciences seeking to have introductory understanding of exploring and visualizing life sciences data with R programming.

Course Designer and Instructor, Texas Carer Engagement Office, University of Texas at Austin Summer 2022, Summer 2023

An Introduction to Building your own Professional Website: A primer for HTML, CSS and GitHub

Designed and taught a course to graduate students, and postdocs in the College of Liberal Arts (COLA) seeking to create and maintain a Github.io website for the purposes of professional development. Finished products from the course can be found in these students’ websites: <https://yulminpark.github.io>, <https://theodorecharm.github.io>.

Lab Instructor, Texas Carer Engagement Office, University of Texas at Austin Spring 2023

Introductory Lab Experiments in Biology

Taught a 4-hour weekly lab course, held weekly office hours, and conducted lab exam reviews. Graded performance and lab reports and lab exams. I was the main point of contact and instructor for the lab experiments for two sections of 40 undergraduate students.

Contributor, University of Texas at Austin Spring 2023

Graduate Student Mentoring

Contributed content for a section of the course designed by a campus-wide effort to develop resources for

faculty members, graduate students, and graduate programs by the Graduate Student Mentoring Committee. The topic of the section is on “communicating with one’s mentor early on in an academic mentorship interaction.

Teaching Assistant, University of Texas at Austin

Fall 2019, Fall 2020

Ecology, Introductory Biology II

Department of Integrative Biology

Led weekly discussion sessions, held weekly office hours, conducted reviews prior to exams. Graded quizzes, homework assignments, and exams. I had full independence in covering weekly coursework for both courses, including reviews of the weekly lecture material, in-class activities, and question-answer sessions.

Mentoring Experience

Undergraduate Assistants

Zoe F. C., Soumya S Appalla	Present
Riya A. Jeff, Rosalva B. Bravo Ozuna, Sophia De Mendoza, Jacs N. Purcell, Sivani Balaji, Hee Won Lim,	
Laurel Miller, Sai Kurelli, Rachel C. Pitcock, Sara Aber	2023-2024
Brian Matibag, Serah M. Osborn, Carole-Lynna E. Benhamou, Michael D. Hanson, Elena R.M. Adams,	
Diana Espinoza	2021-2022
David Weier, Sarah Bybee, Sora Sunby	2019-2021

Undergraduates mentored in capstone/thesis projects

Avery Dyson (Sustainability Studies, Geography)	2023-2024
Mandy Tran (Environmental Science)	2022-2023
Stephanie Nuñez (Biochemistry)	2021-2023
Matthew Bradley (Computational Biology)	2021-2022

Community Service

Contributor, The Department of Integrative Biology, University of Texas at Austin 2022-Present
Represented the EEB graduate student body in groups such as the Field Safety working group (led by Dr. Tom Juenger) and the Departmental Code of Conduct writing working group (led by Dr. Caroline Farrior).

Organizer and Mentor, The Biodiversity Scholars Program of EEB, University of Texas at Austin 2021-Present

Funded by the Stengl-Wyer endowment, PIs: Dr. Tim Keitt, Dr. Laura Gonzalez, a program that financially supports and mentors under-represented students in taking field-based courses in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology.

App developer and Translator for Eco-Evo Apps, <https://ecoevoapps.gitlab.io> 2021-Present

Founder and Director, Society for Advancing Gender Equity in STEM (SAGES) and STEM Muse at UT Mentorship Program, University of Texas at Austin 2019-Present

Founded an institution-wide mentorship program by pairing women undergraduate and graduate students of UT Austin to women faculty and industry officials in STEM to build a supportive network of women in STEM. Led a committee of 7 people maintaining the annual mentorship program. The mentorship program has supported over 700 women and underrepresented gendered mentees in STEM to date.

Mentor, The TexasEEB Club, University of Texas at Austin 2022-2024

Organizer, International Graduate Students Committee of EEB, University of Texas at Austin 2021-2024
Founded and led the only international student support group for the graduate program of EEB.

EEB Graduate Student Representative, The Department of Integrative Biology, University of Texas at Austin 2022-2023

Member, Minorities in Biological Research, University of Texas at Austin 2022-2023

Organizer, Ecology Seminar (Ecolunch), University of Texas at Austin 2020-2022