

**ANYIMILEHIDI MAZO VARGAS**

**Department of Biology**

**Call Box 9000**

**University of Puerto Rico**

**Mayagüez, PR 00681 U.S.A.**

**(787) 832-4040 ext. 3005**

**E-mail: [bioanyimima@gmail.com](mailto:bioanyimima@gmail.com)**

**Website: <http://academic.uprm.edu/~franz/amv.html>**

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## **EDUCATION**

- 2008-present      **Master of Science in Biology**  
*University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez Campus*  
Thesis title: Untangling the effects of biogeography and host plant associations: phylogenetic and phylogeographic studies in the *Exopthalmus* genus complex.
- 1999-2005      **B.Sc. Degree in Biology**  
*Universidad del Valle, Cali, Colombia*  
Concentration in Entomology  
Thesis title: Efecto del algodón Bollgard ® (Bt) sobre la diversidad y abundancia de artrópodos del suelo durante su segundo año en el Valle del Cauca.
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## **RESEARCH INTERESTS**

Molecular systematics of insects, evolution, biogeography.

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## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

### **Laboratory Assistant**

Department of Biology, Universidad del Valle, Cali, Colombia

2002 Spring      Microbiology laboratory assistant for Prof. Celina Torres.

2002 Fall      Arthropod zoology laboratory assistant for Prof. Ranulfo González.

### **Other Experience**

2003 Spring      Curatorial assistant in the Entomological Museum of the Universidad del Valle (MEUV), Department of Biology, Entomology Section, Universidad del Valle, Cali, Colombia. Professor in charge: Nancy Soraya Carrejo.

2005 Winter -  
2006 Spring      Volunteer in the Ecology and Soil Insect Laboratory, Entomology Department, New York State Agriculture Experiment Station (NYASES), Cornell University. Professor in charge: Daniel Peck.

July 2006 - October 2007      Research Assistant in the project "Evaluating the impact of genetically modified organisms", supported by the Compañía Agrícola Colombiana – Monsanto, International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), Palmira. Supervisor: Agricultural Engineer Jairo Rodríguez.

### Graduate Research

Department of Biology, University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez Campus

2008-present      M.Sc. thesis project: Molecular characterization of species of the Caribbean genus complex *Exophthalmus* (Coleoptera: Curculionidae). Developed skills in DNA extraction, purification, amplification, cloning, and phylogenetic analysis of DNA sequences. Drs. Matías J. Cafaro and Nico M. Franz.

### Undergraduate Research

International Center for Tropical Agriculture - CIAT, Palmira, Colombia

2005      Investigated the potential effects of Bollgard cotton on the diversity and abundance of soil arthropods in the Valle del Cauca, Colombia. Supervisors: Engineer Jairo Rodríguez and Dr. James Montoya.

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### PRESENTATIONS

- 2005      **Mazo-Vargas, A.**; Rodriguez, J.; Montoya, J.; Peck, D.C. Comparación de la abundancia y diversidad de Coleoptera en algodón convencional (DP 5415) y modificado (NuCotn 33B) en el Valle del Cauca, Colombia. In: Resumen XXXII Congreso de la Sociedad Colombiana de Entomología SOCOLEN. 88 p.
- 2006      Rodriguez, J., Ospina, C.M., **Mazo-Vargas, A.**, Peck, D.C. Field evaluation of the impact of Bt cotton on non-target soil arthropods in Colombia. 4<sup>th</sup> Congress of Biological Control. Poster. May 31, June 1-2, CIAT, Colombia.
- 2006      Rodriguez, J., Peck, D.C., Ospina, C.M., **Mazo-Vargas, A.** Efecto del algodón Bt (Tecnología Bollgard ®) sobre los artrópodos no-blanco del suelo en el Valle del Cauca durante el 2003 y 2004. Poster. XXXIII Congreso de la Sociedad Colombiana de Entomología SOCOLEN.
- 2009      **Mazo-Vargas, A.**, Cafaro, M., Franz, N. Phylogeny of the *Exophthalmus* genus complex (Coleoptera: Curculionidae: Entiminae) from the Caribbean. Poster. XXVIII Simposio de la Flora y Fauna del Caribe, April 24, 2009, Humacao, PR.
- 2009      **Mazo-Vargas, A.**, Franz, N. Filogenia del complejo de género *Exophthalmus* Schoenherr (Coleoptera: Curculionidae: Entiminae) para el Caribe. Poster. XXXVI Congreso de la Sociedad Colombiana de Entomología SOCOLEN, Julio 29-31, 2009, Medellín, Colombia.

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## OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- 2005            **Mazo-Vargas, A.**, Rodriguez, J., Montoya, J., Peck, D.C. Comparison of the abundance and diversity of Coleoptera in conventional (DP5415) and modified (NuCotn 33B) cotton in the Cauca Valley, Colombia. Project PE-1: Integrated Pest and Disease Management Project. Annual Report CIAT.
- 2005            Ramirez, M., Rodríguez, J., **Mazo-Vargas, A.**, Peck, D.C. Evaluation of the ant community (Hymenoptera: Formicidae) in conventional (DP5415) and Bt-modified (NuCotn 33B) cotton in the Cauca Valley, Colombia. Annual Report CIAT.

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## PARTICIPATION IN MEETINGS AND WORKSHOPS

XLIV Entomological Forum: "Dengue fever and its insect vector, *Aedes aegypti*". Universidad Nacional de Colombia. Palmira, Colombia. April, 2002.

XI Colombian Meeting of Tropical Parasitology and Medicine. Santiago de Cali, Colombia, October 30 to November 2, 2003.

Course: Beetles (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae: Pleurosticti) of agricultural importance. International Center for Tropical Agriculture. Project of Integrated Underground Pest Management. Palmira, Colombia, September, 2004.

Workshop: Basic taxonomy and generalities of Collembola. International Center for Tropical Agriculture and Cornell University, Palmira, Colombia, April 2005.

North American Workshop in Cladistic Methods. Willi Henning Society. The Ohio State University. July 13-17, 2009.

XXXVI Congreso de la Sociedad Colombiana de Entomología SOCOLEN, Julio 29-31, 2009, Medellín, Colombia.

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## Awards

- 2000-2002            Winner of undergraduate grants for academic merit for five consecutive semesters: (I-00), (II-00), (I-01), (II-01), (I-02). Faculty of Sciences, Universidad del Valle, Cali, Colombia.
- 2009                Winner of a fellowship to attend the OSU-Willi Hennig Society Workshop in Phylogenetics. Ohio State University, Columbus, OH.
- 2009                Winner of a José Trías Monge graduate fellowship to attend the Annual Meeting of the Entomological Society of America in Indianapolis, IN. University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez, PR.

