

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH -**ELVIA J. MELÉNDEZ-ACKERMAN**
Environmental Sciences, University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras
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PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION

University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras.	Biology	B. S. 1984-1987
University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras	Biology	M. S. 1987-1990
University of California, Irvine	Ecology	Ph.D. 1990-1995

APPOINTMENTS

1) Full professor – Environmental Sciences, University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus (July, 2006 – Present), 2) Interim Director, Institute for Tropical Ecosystem Studies, University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus (January 2006 – 2010); 2); 3) Special Appointment – Department of Terrestrial and Atmospheric Sciences – Purdue University (2005-2009); 4) 2002-2007- Director Species and Population Management Cluster (Subgroup II) – Center for Applied Tropical Ecology and Conservation, 5) - Associate Professor, Institute for Tropical Ecosystem Studies, University of Puerto Rico- Río Piedras; 6) (June 2000- Present); 7) -Director El Verde Field Station, Institute for Tropical Ecosystem Studies, University of Puerto Rico- Río Piedras (June 1996 – June 2000), 8) -Assistant Professor, Institute for Tropical Ecosystem Studies, University of Puerto Rico- Río Piedras (June 1996 – June 2000), 9) Assistant Professor Department of Biology, University of Puerto Rico-Humacao –(Jan 1996-June 1996)

5 SIGNIFICANT PRODUCTS – 55 PUBLICATIONS + 155 SCIENTIFIC PRESENTATIONS

C. P. Vila-Ruiz, E. Meléndez-Ackerman, R.Santiago-Bartolomei, D. Garcia-Montiel, Lourdes Lastra, C.E. Figuerola, and J. Fumero-Caban: Plant species richness and abundance of residential yards across a tropical watershed: implications for urban sustainability. *Ecology and Society* *In press*.

Melendez-Ackerman, E. R. Santiago-Bartolomei, C. Vila-Ruiz, L. Santiago, D. García-Montiel, J. Verdejo Ortiz, H. Manrique-Hernandez, E. Hernandez-Calo*. Socio-economic drivers of yard sustainable practices in a tropical city. *Ecology and Society* *In press**indicates undergraduate co-author.

Santiago, L. E., J. C. Verdejo Ortiz, R. Santiago-Bartolomei, E. J. Melendez-Ackerman, and D. C. Garcia-Montiel. 2014. Uneven access and underuse of ecological amenities in urban parks of the Río Piedras watershed. *Ecology and Society* 19(1): 26. <http://dx.doi.org/10.5751/ES-06180-190126>

Garcia-Montiel, D. C., J. C. Verdejo-Ortiz, R. Santiago-Bartolomei, C. P. Vila-Ruiz, L. Santiago, and E. Melendez-Ackerman. 2014. Food sources and accessibility and waste disposal patterns across an urban tropical watershed: implications for the flow of materials and energy. *Ecology and Society* 19(1): 37. <http://dx.doi.org/10.5751/ES-06118-190137>

Colibrí Sanfiorenzo-Barnhart*, Luis García Barrios, **Elvia Meléndez-Ackerman** and Romeo Trujillo-Vásquez. 2009. Woody cover characterization and local farmers perception of active pasturelands in the buffer zone of La Sepultura Biosphere Reserve. *Mountain Research and Development* 29:320-327.

*indicates undergraduate co-author.

FIVE OTHER SIGNIFICANT PRODUCTS –

Rojas-Sandoval J., E. Meléndez-Ackerman, J. Fumero-Cabán, M.A. García-Bermúdez, J. Sustache, S. Aragón, M. Morales and D.S. Fernández. 2014. Effects of hurricane disturbance and feral goat herbivory on the structure of a Caribbean dry forest. *Journal of Vegetation Science*, doi: 10.1111/jvs.12160.

Rojas-Sandoval J. and E. Meléndez-Ackerman. 2013. Population dynamics of a threatened cactus species: general assessment and effects of matrix dimensionality. *Population Ecology* 55: 479-491.

Rojas-Sandoval, Julissa; **Melendez-Ackerman, Elvia**; Fernández, Denny. 2012. Plant community dynamics of a tropical semi-arid system following experimental removals of an exotic grass. *Applied Vegetation Science* 15: 513-524

Olaya-Arenas, P., **EJ Melendez-Ackerman**, M. Perez and Raymond Tremblay. 2011. "Demographic response to long-term climate variation by a small epiphytic orchid in the Luquillo Mountains of Puerto Rico." *American Journal of Botany* 98(12): 2040–2048.

Julissa Rojas-Sandoval; **Elvia Melendez-Ackerman**. 2011. Reproductive phenology of the Caribbean cactus *Harrisia portoricensis*: rainfall and temperature associations. *Botany*: 89: 861-871.

SYNERGISTIC ACTIVITIES

- Executive Committee San Juan ULTRA (2010-Present)
- Focal Group of American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) PR Chapter (2011)
- BOD NGO Amigos del Yunque (2010-Present)
- Co-PI GK-12 Program From Hectares to Nanometers at UPR Rio Piedras
- Several positions within the Organization for Tropical Studies including UPR Delegate to OTS Vice Chair of NFAC (a member of OTS Board of Directors).
- Science resource and Co-PI GK-12 Program *From Nanometers to Hectares* at UPR (2007-2013).
- served as NSF panelist for UMEB, Population Biology and GK-12 (2003, 2004, 2007).
- Faculty mentor AKKA SEEDS Ecology Chapter, University of PR-Rio Piedras (Jan 2007-Present). SEEDS is the umbrella program for Ecology chapters sponsored by the Ecological Society of America.
- Active mentor and faculty resource for various student training programs funded by NSF including PR-LSAMP, UMEB, REU and GK-12.
- Adhoc Member Environmental Committee – UPR Academic Senate

THESIS ADVISORS:

Diane R. Campbell, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of California at Irvine (Ph.D); James D. Ackerman Department of Biology, University of Puerto Rico-Río Piedras (MSc).

TOTAL STUDENTS ADVISED: 6 PhD, 6 MSc, 93 BSc

COLLABORATORS BY AFFILIATION:

University of Puerto Rico-Río Piedras: Elvira Cuevas , Alonso Ramirez Jorge Ortiz, Eugenio Santiago, Julissa Rojas, Luis Santiago, Diana Garcia, Brad Weiner, Nicholas Brokaw, Jose Seguinot, Raul Santiago, Harold Marrique, Liz Diaz, Gerardo Morel, Lizette Velazquez, Gladys Davila; **University of, Puerto Rico-Humacao** (Raymond Tremblay, Denny Fernandez), **UPR-Mayaguez:** Mario Flores Mangual **DNER-PR:** Miguel García, José Sustache, **IITF-USFS:** Ariel Lugo, Ernesto Medina, Eileen Elmer, Olga Ramos, **USFS-SRS:** Thomas Brandeis, **USFW:** Omar Monsegur, **Univ of Arizona** (Tisha Muñoz-Erickson). **NC State:** Stacey Nelson., **Michigan State-East Lansing:** Mark Rey, William Taylor. **Postdoc:** Julissa Rojas; **Graduate Students Graduate; UPR.Rio Piedras:** Julissa Rojas (PhD) Jose Fumero (Ph.D), Mervin Perez (Ph.D), Sofia Olivero (Ph.D), Chris Nycht (PhD), Ana Trujillo (PhD). Hana Lopez (MSc), Colibrí Sanfiorenzo (MSc), Charito Orengo (MSc), Paola Olaya (MSc), Catherine Vargas (MSc), Jose Fumero (MSc)