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Benjamin Theodore Wilder

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. *In Progress*, University of California, Riverside, Dept. Botany and Plant Sciences. GPA: 3.73. Qualifying exams passed April 2011. Defense planned for Summer 2014.
Dissertation: Historical Biogeography of the Midriff Islands, Gulf of California, Mexico
Committee: Dr. Exequiel Ezcurra (Advisor), Dr. Normand Ellstrand, Dr. Richard Felger, Dr. Francisco Molina-Freaner, Dr. Lucinda McDade
BS Cum Laude and Honors, University of Arizona, Tucson Arizona, December 2006, Major in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, GPA: 3.67
Duke University, Organization for Tropical Studies (OTS), Costa Rica, Spring 2005, GPA: 3.75
Lewis and Clark College, Portland Oregon, September 2002-May 2004, Major in Environmental Studies, with a focus in Conservation Biology

APPOINTMENTS

2011–Present	co-Founder and Director. Next Generation Sonoran Desert Researchers.
2009–Present	Research Assistant. UC, Riverside, Dept. Botany and Plant Sciences.
2005–2013	Independent Researcher. Plant Life of a Desert Archipelago: Flora of the Sonoran Islands in Gulf of California, Mexico. <i>Dr. Richard S. Felger, Mentor.</i>
Summer 2009	Project leader. Matching of Historic Photographs in the Plains of Sonora.
2004–2008	Research Assistant. The Desert Laboratory at Tumamoc Hill, University of Arizona Buffelgrass Control Project. <i>Dr. Julio Betancourt, Mentor.</i>
2005–2006	Assistant Curator. University of Arizona Herbarium.
2003, 2004, 2007	Research Assistant. Desert Research Unit, Office of Arid Land Studies. <i>Dr. Martin Karpisac and Dr. Raymond Turner, Mentors.</i>

TEACHING & MENTORSHIP

2008-present	Co-leader. Comcaac (Seri people) ‘plant team’ control of invasive plant species on the Midriff Islands, Gulf of California.
2012–2013	Mentor. Three undergraduate biology students, UC, Riverside.
2012	Leader. Two plant workshops in the Comcaac community of Punta Chueca, Sonora.
2012	Teaching Assistant. UC, Riverside, Dept. Botany and Plant Sciences, course Biology 5B, Introduction to Organismal Biology.

AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

2014	Finalist, David H. Smith Conservation Research Fellowship
2013–2014	Dissertation Year Program Fellowship, UC, Riverside (\$14,400)
2013	Graduate Student Achievement Award Dept. Botany and Plant Sciences, UC, Riverside (\$900)
2010, 2011, 2013	National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship (\$90,000)
2012, 2014	UC, Riverside Chancellor’s Distinguished Fellowship Award (\$57,600)
2006–2007	Leslie N. Goodding Memorial Scholarship (\$2,600)
2006	Outstanding Senior Award Dept. Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of Arizona
2005	University of Arizona/NASA Spacegrant Fellow (\$1,500)

GRANTS

2012–2013	The Christensen Fund “Scientific Capacity Building in the Comcaac Community” (\$15,000) UC MEXUS Dissertation Research Grant “Historical Plant Biogeography of the Midriff Islands of the Gulf of California” (\$12,000)
2012	UC MEXUS “Next Generation Sonoran Desert Researchers Summit” (\$20,000) The Marisla Foundation “Next Generation Sonoran Desert Researchers Summit” (\$20,000) The David and Lucile Packard Foundation “Next Generation Sonoran Desert Researchers Summit” (\$10,000) The University of Arizona College of Science “Next Generation Sonoran Desert Researchers Summit” (\$5,000) The JiJi Foundation “Next Generation Sonoran Desert Researchers Summit” (\$3,000) Center for Conservation Biology, UC, Riverside “Next Generation Sonoran Desert Researchers Summit” (\$1,200) The Sonoran Institute “Next Generation Sonoran Desert Researchers Summit” (\$1,000) Anonymous donor “Next Generation Sonoran Desert Researchers Summit” (\$1,000)
2011	UC MEXUS Small Grants “Historical Plant Biogeography of the Midriff Islands of the Gulf of California: 2011 Field Season” (\$3,000)
2008–2009	The David and Lucile Packard Foundation Dr. Richard Felger, PI, Benjamin Wilder, Research Associate “Islands of Opportunity: Botanical Diversity of the Sonoran Islands, Gulf of California, Mexico” (\$115,000)
2008	Global Green Grants “Assessment and Control of Non-native Invasive Plant Species, Sonoran Islands, Gulf of California” (\$3,500)

	T&E Inc. of New Mexico “Exploration of Higher Elevations of Isla Tiburón” (\$1,750)
2007–2008	WWF México Programa Golfo de California Dr. Richard Felger, PI, Benjamin Wilder, Research Associate “Reassessment of the vegetation and flora of Islas San Pedro Martir and San Pedro Nolasco, Gulf of California” (\$15,440)
2006–2007	Cactus and Succulent Society of America, Research Grants Program “Vascular flora of Isla Tiburón and satellite islands, Gulf of California, Mexico” (\$1,400)
2005	University of Arizona Honors College, Alumni Legacy Grants “Vascular flora of Isla Tiburón and satellite islands, Gulf of California, Mexico” (\$400) Arizona-Nevada Academy of Science “Vascular flora of Isla Tiburón and satellite islands, Gulf of California, Mexico” (\$200)

PUBLICATIONS

Book

Felger, R.S. & **B.T. Wilder** in collaboration with H. Romero-Morales. 2012. *Plant Life of a Desert Archipelago: Flora of the Sonoran Islands in the Gulf of California*. University of Arizona Press, Tucson. 624 pages.

Papers and book chapters

14. **Wilder, B.T.**, J.L. Betancourt, C. Epps, R. Crowhurst, J.I. Mead, & E. Ezcurra. 2014. Local extinction and unintentional rewilding of bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis*) on a desert island. *PlosOne: In Press*.
13. Velarde, E., **B.T. Wilder**, R.S. Felger, & E. Ezcurra. 2014. Floristic Diversity and Dynamics of Isla Rasa, Gulf of California, Mexico – A globally important seabird site. *Botanical Sciences. In Press*.
12. **Wilder, B.T.**, C. O’Meara, A. Medel, N. Narchi, & O. Aburto-Oropeza. 2013. The Need For a Next Generation of Sonoran Desert Researchers. *Conservation Biology* 27:243–244.
11. **Wilder, B.T.**, P.P. Garcillán, B. Marazzi. 2013. Sonoran Desert. In (Ed.) Howarth, R.W., *Biomes and Ecosystems: An Encyclopedia*. Salem Press, Ipswich, MA. Pp. 1160–1163.
10. Garcillán, Pedro P., B. Marazzi, **B.T. Wilder**. 2013. Baja California Desert. In (Ed.) Howarth, R.W., *Biomes and Ecosystems: An Encyclopedia*. Salem Press, Ipswich, MA. Pp. 346–349.
9. Gallo-Reynoso, J.P, R.S. Felger, & **B.T. Wilder**. 2012. Near colonization of a desert island by a tropical bird: Military macaw (*Ara militaris*) at Isla San Pedro Nolasco, Gulf of California. *The Southwestern Naturalist* 57:461–464.
8. **Wilder, B.T.**, C. O’Meara, A. Medel, N. Narchi. 2012. Next Generation Sonoran Desert Researchers 2012 Summit: The beginning of a movement. [English](#). [Spanish](#).
7. Felger, R.S., **B.T. Wilder**, & J.P. Gallo-Reynoso. 2011. Floristic diversity and long-term vegetation dynamics of San Pedro Nolasco Island, Gulf of California, Mexico. *Proceedings of the San Diego Society of Natural History* 43:1–42.

6. **Wilder, B.T.** & R.S. Felger. 2010. Cardons, guano, and isolation: The flora and vegetation of San Pedro Mártir Island, Gulf of California, Mexico. *Proceedings of the San Diego Society of Natural History* 42:1–24.
5. **Wilder, B.T.**, R.S. Felger, & H. Romero. 2008. Succulent plant diversity of the Sonoran Islands, Gulf of California, Mexico. *Haseltonia* 14:128–161.
4. **Wilder, B.T.**, R.S. Felger, T. R. Van Deveder, & H. Romero-Morales. 2008. *Canotia holacantha* on Isla Tiburón, Gulf of California, Mexico. *Canotia* 4(1):1–7.
3. **Wilder, B.T.**, R.S. Felger, H. Romero-Morales, & A. Quijada-Mascareñas. 2007. New plant discoveries for Sonoran Islands, Gulf of California, Mexico. *Journal of Botanical Research Institute of Texas* 1:1203–1227.
2. **Wilder, B.T.**, R.S. Felger, & H. Romero-Morales. 2007. Succulents and bighorn of Isla Tiburón. *The Plant Press, Arizona Native Plant Society* 31(2):9–11.
1. **Wilder, B.T.** 2007. Report to Arizona-Nevada Academy of Science on the project: Vascular flora of Isla Tiburón and Satellite Islands, Gulf of California Mexico. *Journal of the Arizona-Nevada Academy of Science* 39(1):51–55.

In Progress

- Vanderplank, S. E., **B. T. Wilder**, E. Ezcurra. *In Prep.* Uncovering the dryland biodiversity of the Cabo Pulmo region. Report.
- Wilder, B.T.**, C. O’Meara, N. N. Narchi, R. F. Rentería-Valencia, S. Vanderplank, J. Torre. *In Prep.* *Seeds in the Sand: Emerging approaches to Understanding the Sonoran Desert and Gulf of California*. Journal of the Southwest.
- Wilder, B.T.**, N. N. Narchi, R. F. Rentería-Valencia. *In Prep.* Postcards from Tiburón: Becoming a Researcher in the Seri Universe. *In, Wilder, B.T., C. O’Meara, N. N. Narchi et al. (eds.) Seeds in the Sand: Emerging approaches to Understanding the Sonoran Desert and Gulf of California*. Journal of the Southwest.
- Bennett, S. E. K., A. Lira-Noriega, **B. T. Wilder**, A. Munguia-Vega, G. Dolby. *In Prep.* The Geologic and Climatic Forcing of Biodiversity Surrounding the Gulf of California. *In, Wilder, B.T., C. O’Meara, N. N. Narchi et al. (eds.) Seeds in the Sand: Emerging approaches to Understanding the Sonoran Desert and Gulf of California*. Journal of the Southwest.
- Van Devender, T., R. S. Felger, J. Sánchez-Escalante, **B. T. Wilder**. *In Prep.* Flora of the Municipio de Hermosillo, Sonora, Mexico.
- Ratay, S. E., S. Vanderplank, **B. T. Wilder**. *In Review.* Baja California Contributions to the Flora of the Channel Islands. *Western North American Naturalist*.

SELECT PRESENTATIONS

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- Establishing Conservation Baselines in the Gulf of California. Conservation Biology class, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ. 2014.
- Historical Biogeography and Unintentional Rewilding of the Midriff Islands, Gulf of California. Lab of Dr. Rodolfo Dirzo, Stanford CA. 2014.
- Cabo Pulmo and Cabo Cortés: The conservation frontier in Baja California. University of Arizona Herbarium, Tucson, AZ. 2013.
- Historical Biogeography of the Midriff Islands, Gulf of California. Arizona Native Plant Society, Tucson, AZ. 2013.

- Establecimiento de línea de base biológica en las Grandes Islas. Simposio de CONANP, Bahía de los Ángeles, Baja California. 2013
- The Discovery of Plants. Lineweaver Elementary School, Barbara Sam's First Grade Class, Tucson, AZ. 2013
- Highway 16 Revisited: A transect of the Sierra Madre Occidental. University of Arizona Herbarium, Tucson, AZ. 2012.
- From Coastal Scrub to Desert Islands: A botanical tour of Baja California. California Native Plant Society Riverside-San Bernardino Chapter, Riverside, CA. Co-presenter: Sula Vanderplank. 2012.
- Plant Life of a Desert Archipelago. California Native Plant Society, Conservation Conference, San Diego, CA. 2012
- La Flora de las Grandes Islas y su Importancia para la Conservación. XV Anniversary of CIAD, Guaymas, Sonora. Presented in Spanish. 2011.
- Island Biogeography, Plant Distribution, and Origin of Island Floras. 96th Annual Meeting of the Ecological Society of America, Austin, TX. 2011.
- A Century of Vegetation Change on the Midriff Islands, What Can We Expect in the Coming Decades? Conservation and Science Symposium, Loreto, Baja California Sur. 2011.
- Islands of Opportunity: Controlling Invasive Plant Species on the Midriff Islands, Gulf of California. Conservation and Science Symposium, Loreto, Baja California Sur. 2011.
- Dwarf Giants, Guano, and Isolation: Vegetation and Floristic Diversity of Isla San Pedro Mártir, Gulf of California, Mexico. 53rd Annual Symposium of the International Association for Vegetation Science (IAVS), Ensenada, Baja California, Mexico. 2010.
- Floristic Diversity and Historic Vegetation Reconstruction of the Midriff Islands, Gulf of California, Mexico. California Botanical Society 22nd Annual Graduate Student Symposium, San Jose, CA. 2010
- Plants of the Sonoran islands, Gulf of California: Overview and conservation priorities. Encuentro Nacional para la Conservación y el Desarrollo Sustentable de las Islas de México, Ensenada, Baja California, Mexico. 2009.
- Dwarf Cardons and Ice Age Relicts; Some Biogeographical Plant Stories from Islands in the Gulf of California, Mexico. [Poster]. 4th Biennial Conference of the International Biogeography Society, Merida, Yucatan, Mexico. 2009.
- A Phylogenetic Analysis of Three Tropical Forests [Poster]. 4th Biennial Conference of the International Biogeography Society, Merida, Yucatan, Mexico. 2009.
- Flora de la Isla Tiburón e islotes adyacentes, en el Golfo de California. Sonoran Native Plants Society, Hermosillo, Sonora. Presented in Spanish. 2007.
- Floristic Diversity of Isla Tiburón and Satellite Islands, Gulf of California, Mexico. Arizona Native Plants Society, Tucson, Arizona. 2007.
- Succulents and Bighorn of Isla Tiburón, Gulf of California. IV Arizona Botanists Conference, Phoenix, Arizona. 2007.
- Different Place, Same Problem: Buffel in the Australian Outback. Desert Laboratory on Tumamoc Hill, Tucson, Arizona. 2006.
- Different Place, Same Problem: Buffel in the Sonoran Desert, USA. CSIRO, Alice Springs, Northern Territory, Australia. 2006.

Buffelgrass: a New World Order in the Sonoran Desert. Arizona Space Grant Symposium, Tucson, Arizona. 2006.

Vascular flora of Isla Tiburón and satellite islands, Gulf of California, Mexico. V International Symposium Flora of Arid Lands, Hermosillo, Sonora, Mexico. 2006.

ADDITIONAL TRAINING & EXPERIENCE

2005-Present	Botanical collector. Over 3500 herbarium collections made primarily from the Sonoran Desert, and distributed to herbaria across the U.S. and Mexico.
2011-Present	Board member. Prescott College Kino Bay Center for Cultural and Ecological Studies
2012-Present	Co-developer. Next Generation Sonoran Desert Researchers website www.nextgensd.com
2011-Present	Reviewer. Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution, and Systematics
2013-Present	Expert. Elaboración de un Programa de Adaptación al Cambio Climático en la Región de Grandes Islas
2013-Present	Design team member. Biosphere 2 Ocean Remodel
2009–2013	Board member. Southern California Botanists
2013	Participant. Encuentro de Diálogos de Colaboración con los Comcaac
2012	Leader. Next Generation Sonoran Desert Researchers Summit using open space technology or (un)conference format
2011–2012	Co-chair. Botany Graduate Student Association, UC Riverside
2012, 2008	Guest faculty. Prescott College Kino Bay Center for Cultural and Ecological Studies, Kino Bay, Sonora, Mexico
2010	Participant. Taller Plan Estratégico de las Grandes Islas
2008	Student. Tropical Plant Systematics field course, Organization for Tropical Studies, Costa Rica