Catalina Aristizábal

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

The mutualism-parasitism continuum in plant-fungus symbioses, multilevel interactions between the biotic and abiotic components of ecosystems, root adaptations, ecosystem nutrient cycling, restoration

EDUCATION

University of Miami, Florida	Biology	Ph.D.	2001-2008
Universidad Javeriana, Bogotá	Biology	B.Sc.	1995-2000

Courses

- Organization for Tropical Studies (OTS) 02-3 course "Tropical Biology: An Ecological Approach". Costa Rica, 2002
- Participant in the "I Curso Internacional de Ecologia de Suelos Tropicales". Universidad Javeriana, Bogotá, 1999

APPOINTMENTS

Assistant Professor of Biology, Miami Dade College	2010-present
Adjunct Faculty, Department of Biology, Miami Dade College	2009
Teaching Assistant, Department of Biology, University of Miami	2006-2008
Research Assistant, Department of Biology, University of Miami	2004-2006
Teaching assistant, Department of Biology, University of Miami	2001-2003

PUBLICATIONS

Aristizábal C, Rivera EL, and Janos DP. 2004. Arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi colonize decomposing leaves of *Myrica parvifolia*, *M. pubescens* and *Paepalanthus* sp. Mycorrhiza 14:221-228

Aristizábal C, Janos DP, and DeAngelis D. Leaf traits influence decomposing leaf colonization by arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi. *in progress*

Aristizábal C, Janos DP. Leaf litter influences *Morella cerifera* responses to root symbionts. *in progress*

Aristizábal C, Janos DP. Arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi enhance *Morella cerifera* growth under conditions of litter accumulation. *in progress*

PRESENTATIONS

Poster presentations:

Aristizábal C, Rivera EL, and Janos DP. Arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi colonize the decomposing leaves of *Myrica parvifolia*, *M. pubescens* and *Paepalanthus* sp." Association for Tropical Biology Conference (ATBC). Panama City, Panama: July 29-August 3, 2002.

Poster also presented at:

- Coalition for Excellence in Tropical Biology (CETroB) Conference. Coral Gables, Florida: September 20-22, 2002
- 4th International Conference on Mycorrhiza (ICOM4). Montreal, Canada: August 6-16, 2003

Aristizábal C, and Janos DP. Leaf traits affect the colonization of decomposing leaves by arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi. 5th International Conference on Mycorrhiza (ICOM5). Granada, Spain: July 23-27, 2006

Poster also presented at:

- Coalition for Excellence in Tropical Biology (CETroB) Conference. Coral Gables, Florida: October 18, 2006

Janos DP, and Aristizábal C. Arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi enhance *Sapindus saponaria* L. seedling nitrogen nutrition and growth in non-rotated ingrowth cores. ICOM5. Granada, Spain: July 23-27, 2006

Oral presentations:

Talks at the Biennial Soil Ecology Society (SES) Meeting

- Aristizábal C, and Janos DP. 2005. Litter quality affects the colonization of decomposing leaves by arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi. Argonne, Illinois: 22-25 May, 2005

- Aristizábal C, and Janos DP. 2007. Are cluster roots an alternative to arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi for *Morella cerifera* (L.) Small? Moab, Utah: April 29-May 2, 2007

- Janos DP, and Aristizábal C. Does sequestration of iron by glomalin inhibit Dade County pine seedling establishment in the calcareous soil of South Florida hardwood hammocks? Moab, Utah: April 29-May 2, 2007

Aristizábal C, and Janos DP. 2004. Litter quality affects the colonization of decomposing leaves by arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi. Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation (ATBC) meeting. Miami, Florida, July 12-15 , 2004

Speaker at the University of Florida's Tropical Research and Education Center (TREC), Fall 2005 seminar series. Seminar title: "Factors that affect the colonization of dead leaves by arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi".

AWARDS & GRANTS

Awards

- College of Arts and Sciences Outstanding Teaching Assistant, 2007-2008
- College of Arts and Sciences Outstanding Teaching Assistant, 2006-2007
- Tropical Biology Fellowship, University of Miami, 2003-2004
- Graduated with highest GPA from the Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, 2000
- Honor mention for B.Sc. Thesis, May 2000

Grants

- Aristizábal C. 2004. Do Arbuscular Mycorrhizal Fungi Enhance Host Nitrogen Acquisition from Decomposing Leaves of Different Quality? Sigma Xi Grant in Aid of research. $996
- Aristizábal C. 2004. "Do arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi enhance host nitrogen acquisition from decomposing leaves of different quality? J. Gerry Curtis Plant Scholarship, University of Miami. $500
- Aristizábal C. 2001. "Does litter quality affect the colonization of decomposing leaves by arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi?". Smathers Scholarship, University of Miami. $ 1000.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Primary Instructor

Department of Biology, Miami Dade College:

- General Education Biology (BSC 1005)
- General Education Biology Laboratory (BSC 1005L)
- Principles of Biology I (BSC 2010)
- Principles of Biology I Laboratory (BSC 2010L)
- Principles of Biology I Laboratory (BSC 2011L)
- Biology and Environment (BSC 1050)

Assistant Instructor

Department of Biology, University of Miami

- Evolution and Biodiversity Laboratory
- Introductory Biology Laboratory
- Tropical Field Biology
- Teaching Assistant for the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) Undergraduate Education Program

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant for the project "Plant iron nutrition in calcareous soils: are arbuscular mycorrhizas a help or a hindrance?" funded by the National Science Foundation, 2004-2006

Department of Biology, Pontificia Universidad Javeriana
Intern in the Plant-Microorganism Laboratory working on the COLCIENCIAS project "Ciclaje directo de nutrients a traves de endomicorriza. Un complemento del proceso de mineralizacion?", 1999-2000

MENTORING & LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Mentoring

Mentored five undergraduate research students at the University of Miami.

Leadership

President of the Biology Graduate Student Association, Department of Biology, University of Miami, 2004-2005

Graduate student representative and organizer of the Distinguished Visiting Professor lecture series, Department of Biology, University of Miami, 2005-2006