

Rafaella Nunes Palma de Freitas

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Place and date of birth: Santa Maria (RS) – Brazil, July 14th of 1997

Address: Avenida Prefeito Evandro Behr, 4521 – Santa Maria, RS, Brazil

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EDUCATION

MSc. in Animal Biodiversity - **March 2020 to September 2022**

Federal University of Santa Maria – Brazil

Dissertation title: “Global patterns of co-occurrence and agonistic interactions in damselfishes (Pomacentridae)”

Advisor: Dr. Mariana Bender

BSc. in Biological Sciences -

March 2016 to December 2020

Federal University of Santa Maria – Brazil

Final project title: “Effects of local abundance on the agonistic and feeding behavior of reef fishes in Curaçao, Caribbean”

Advisor: Dr. Mariana Bender

RESEARCH POSITIONS

2020 - 2022 **Masters Research,** Marine Macroecology and Conservation Lab, Federal University of Santa Maria

Advisor: Dr. Mariana Bender

- Analysis of 400 Remote Underwater Videos (RUVs) in order to collect reef fish species richness, abundance, diet and size from eight sites over a global richness gradient.
- Statistical analysis in R Studio: Linear Model, Path Analysis and network approaches, such as modularity, nestedness and out-degree centrality metrics.

2018 - 2019 **Undergraduate Research,** Marine Macroecology and Conservation Lab, Federal University of Santa Maria

Advisor: Dr. Mariana Bender

- Analysis of over 100 Remote Underwater Videos (RUVs) in order to collect reef fish species richness, abundance, diet, size and habitat complexity from Curaçao Island, Caribbean.
- Statistical analysis in R Studio: General Linear Mixed Model and network approaches, such as modularity, nestedness and out-degree centrality metrics.

2017 - 2017 **Undergraduate Research Assistant,** Genetic Diversity Lab, Federal University of Santa Maria

Advisor: Dr. Marlise Ladvocat Bartholomei Santos

Thesis: “Phylogeography of *Aegla uruguayana* Shmitt 1942 (CRUSTACEA, DECAPODA, ANOMURA)”

- Fieldwork with a 4-person research team on peninsular and Borneo Malaysia to collect species from the *Aegla* genus for laboratory analysis in the context of identifying sister species.
- RNA/DNA extraction.
- PCR.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant in Conservation Ecology: August 2020 – December 2020

College of Biological Sciences, Federal University of Santa Maria

- Prepared lectures and class activities focusing on exotic species and biological invasions.
- Contributed to create and graded course assessments to ensure students understood the material.

Teaching Assistant in Population Ecology: March 2020 – July 2020

College of Biological Sciences, Federal University of Santa Maria

- Prepared lectures and class activities focusing on species interactions, co-occurrence and distribution.
- Contributed to create and graded course assessments to ensure students understood the material.

SCHOLARSHIPS

→ Coordenação de Aperfeiçoamento de Pessoal de Nível Superior (CAPES) scholarship to pursue a master's degree (**April 2020 to May 2022**)

→ Bachelor's degree scholarship for extension project

- University Extension Projetc funded by Fundo de Incentivo à Extensão (FIEEX) (**May 2019 to December 2019**)

→ Bachelor's degree scholarship for scientific research

- Undergraduate Research funded by Pró-Reitoria de Assuntos Estudantis (PRAE) (**March 2018 to August 2018**)
- Undergraduate Research funded by Fundo de Incentivo à Pesquisa (FIPE) (**May 2017 to December 2017**)

PRESENTATIONS

(P) Poster, (T) Talk

Conference Organizing

1. Organizing Committee of the VIII Simpósio de Biodiversidade of UFSM, 2019, Santa Maria, RS - Brazil: Science and Society: Removing barriers to build the future from the 6rd to 8th of November 2019.

Abstract presentation

1. Abstract presentation of the work entitled "Effects of local abundance on the agonistic and feeding behavior of reef fish from Curaçao, Caribbean" at the VIII Simpósio de Biodiversidade of UFSM, 2019, Santa Maria, RS - Brazil. *(P)*
2. Abstract presentation of the work entitled "Effects of local abundance and reef complexity on the agonistic behavior of fish from Curaçao, Caribbean" at the XXXIV Jornada Acadêmica Integrada of UFSM, 2019, Santa Maria, RS - Brazil. *(T)*
3. Abstract presentation of the work entitled "Phylogeography of *Aegla uruguayana* (Crustacea: Decapoda: Anomura)" at the XXXIII Jornada Acadêmica Integrada of UFSM, 2018, Santa Maria, RS - Brazil. *(P)*

CONTRIBUTED PRESENTATIONS

1. Abstract presentation of the work entitled "Jardim Eco: Promoting ecosystem services in the Botanical Garden of UFSM" at the at the XXXIV Jornada Acadêmica Integrada of UFSM, 2019, Santa Maria, RS – Brazil. *(P)*

PUBLICATIONS

1. **Nunes, R.P.F**; Quimbayo, J. P; Floeter, S. R. and Bender, M.G.: Reef fish feeding and agonistic behavior in Curaçao, Caribbean. *Manuscript in preparation*.

2. **Nunes, R.P.F**; Fontoura, L; Floeter, S. R. and Bender, M.G.: Global patterns of co-occurrence and agonistic interactions in damselfishes (Pomacentridae). *Manuscript in preparation*.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

1. Organizing Committee of Group of Studies in Wild Animals of UFSM, 2019, Santa Maria, RS - Brazil.
2. Organizing Committee of Biological Science Student Society of UFSM, 2019, Santa Maria, RS - Brazil.
3. Volunteer work teaching ecology in schools at Arequipa, Peru. From July to August of 2018.

RELEVANT SKILLS

Laboratory Skills

Molecular techniques – RNA/DNA extraction, gel preparation and PCR.

Computer Skills

Microsoft Office – Advanced skills using it for writing, presentation and spreadsheets; **Automatic referencing** (e.g., Zotero).

Coding in R (e.g., intermediate in R for data analysis and machine learning).

Remote Underwater Video (RUVs) analysis (e.g., identifying reef fish species, quantifying richness and abundance, measuring individuals' size and identifying habitat complexity).

Languages

Portuguese: Native

English: Fluent

Spanish: Fluent

French: Basic