



Helena Teixeira

Helena Teixeira, MSc.

Doctoral student

Project: Reconstructing the past: demographic fluctuations in dynamics landscapes modelled for mouse lemurs in Madagascar.

Marked climatic oscillations between glacial and interglacial periods had worldwide consequences for vegetation and consequently for animal population dynamics. Mouse lemurs (*Microcebus* spp.) are forest-dwelling primates endemic to Madagascar and are particularly impacted by these changes. Therefore, they provide an excellent study model to investigate the impact of the last glaciation on the species demographic dynamics. The present project aims to investigate the impact of the last glaciation on the demography of three mouse lemur species (*M. murinus*, *M. ravelobensis* and *M. arnholdi*) in Ankarafantsika National Park and Montagne d'Ambre National Park using various Next Generation Sequencing technologies and different state-of-the-art modelling approaches.



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Professional and scientific career

2016

Genetic study of Guinea baboon (2 months). Internship under the Robert Glaser Travel Grant; German Primate Center GmbH - Leibniz-Institute for Primate Research, Göttingen, Germany; Coordination: Dr. Dietmar Zinner.

2015 - 2016

Landscape genetics of Guinea baboon: assessing population structure, gene flow dynamics and functional connectivity with molecular and spatial tools. Master thesis in Biodiversity, Genetics and Evolution (12 months). Research Center in Biodiversity and Genetics Resources, University of Porto, Portugal; Coordination: Dr. MJ Ferreira da Silva and Dr. José Carlos Brito.

2014 - 2016

Master student in Biodiversity, Genetics and Evolution, Research Center in Biodiversity and Genetics Resources, University of Porto, Portugal

2014 - 2015

Exploring Biodiversity and Ecological Networks for Forest Conservation and Restoration in Gorongosa National Park, Mozambique (15 months). Research fellowship. Centre for Funcional Ecology, University of Coimbra, Portugal; Coordination: Dr. Susana Rodriguez Echeverría.

2013 - 2014

Genetic and demographic consequences of habitat loss and fragmentation in Madagascar, a biodiversity hotspot (12 months). OptimusAlive!13 Research fellowship in Biodiversity, Genetics and Evolution. Population and Conservation Genetics Group - Instituto Gulbenkian de Ciência, Portugal; Coordination: Dr. Lounès Chikhi.

2013

Field Work in Madagascar (3 months): Installation of Sherman traps in order to capture rodents and small lemurs; sampling and morphological analysis of the captured individuals; nocturnal distance. University of Mahajanga, Madagascar; Population and Conservation Genetics Group, Instituto Gulbenkian de Ciência, Portugal. Coordination: Dr. Lounès Chikhi and Dr. Jordi Salmons.

2012 - 2013

Climate Change over the Western Mediterranean and Atlantic Islands: a dendroclimatic and genetic survey of the genus *Juniperus* (18 months). Research fellowship. Centre for Funcional Ecology, University of Coimbra, Portugal. Coordination: Dr. Susana Rodriguez Echeverría and Dr. Cristina Nabais.

2011

Genetic study of Iberian-Wolf from non-invasive fecal samples* (6 months). Training Placement. Centre for Environmental Biology, University of Lisbon, Portugal. Coordination: Dr. Petrucci-Fonseca.

2008 - 2011

Licentiate in Biotechnology, Coimbra Higher School of Agriculture, Portugal;

[Awards & Grants](#)

2019

Maria Sibylla Merian Award in the category First Runner-up Poster at Joint BES7/GTÖ Unifying Tropical Ecology meeting 2019 in Edinburgh (Scotland)

2016

Robert Glaser Travel Grant, awarded by the German Gesellschaft für Primatologie, with the research project Modelling Guinea baboon gene flow in the entire distribution range to improve local conservation management .

2013

Optimus Alive Research fellow in Biodiversity, Genetics and Evolution.

[Publications](#)

I. Articles in peer reviewed journals

2018

Salmona, J; Rasolondraibe E; Jan F; Rakotonanahary AN; Ralantoharijaona T; Le Pors B; Ousseni DSA, Aleixo-Pais I; Marques AJD; Sgarlata GM; Teixeira H; Gabillaud V; Miller A; Ibouroi MT; Zaonarivelo JR; Andriaholinirina NV; Chikhi L (2018), **Re-discovering the forgotten Phaner population of the small and isolated Analafiana forest (Vohémar, SAVA)**. Lemur News 21 (2018): 31-36

2016

Teixeira H, Koop G, Zinner D, Brito JC, Ferreira da Silva MJ (2016). **Modelling Gene Flow in the Entire Distribution Range of Guinea Baboons**, FOLIA PRIMATOL; 87: 165. DOI: 10.1159/000449293

Rodríguez-Echeverría, S., Teixeira, H., Correia, M., Timóteo, S., Heleno, R., Öpik, M. and Moora, M. (2016), **Arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi communities from tropical Africa reveal strong ecological structure**. New Phytologist. doi:10.1111/nph.14122

Teixeira, H., Rodríguez-Echeverría, S. (2016). **Identification of symbiotic nitrogen-fixing bacteria from three African leguminous trees in Gorongosa National Park**. Systematic and Applied Microbiology.

2015

Salmona, J, Teixeira H, Rasolondraibe E, Aleixo-Pais I, Kun-Rodrigues C, Rakotonanahary A, Jan F, Rabarivola Cj, Zaonarivelo Jr, Andriaholinirina Volaso N, Chikhi L (2015). **Genetic Diversity, Population Size, and Conservation of the Critically Endangered Perrier's Sifaka (*Propithecus perrieri*)**. International Journal of Primatology, p-1-22. DOI 10.1007/s10764-015-9881-x

2014

Teixeira, H., Rodríguez-Echeverría, S., & Nabais, C. (2014). **Genetic diversity and differentiation of *Juniperus thurifera* in Spain and Morocco as determined by SSR**. PloS one, 9(2), e88996.

II. Abstracts of international conferences and invited talks

2019

Teixeira, H; Salmona, J; Radespiel, U. **Genomic assessment of hybridization between the distantly related *Microcebus murinus* and *M. ravelobensis* species in northwestern Madagascar** (Poster) April 8-12, 2019, Edinburgh (Scotland) Joint BES7/GTÖ Unifying Tropical Ecology meeting 2019

Teixeira, H; Salmona, J; Radespiel, U. **Genomic signals of natural hybridization between *Microcebus murinus* and *M. ravelobensis* in northwestern Madagascar** (Talk) February 13-15, 2019, Göttingen (Germany) 16th Conference of the Gesellschaft für Primatologie.

2016

Teixeira, H; Campos, JC; Koop, G; Zinner D; Brito JC; Ferreira da Silva M; **Landscape genetics of guinea baboon: assessing population structure, gene flow dynamics, and functional connectivity with molecular and spatial tools** (Talk) November 28-29, 2016, Vairão, University of Porto (Portugal) - TiBE, Trends in Biodiversity and Evolution - Tropical Biodiversity.

2015

Teixeira, H; Koop, G; Zinner, D; Brito, JC; Ferreira da Silva, MJ. **Modelling gene flow in the entire distribution range of guinea baboons** . November 17-20, 2015, Évora (Portugal) - V Iberian Primatological Conference.

Teixeira, H; Rodríguez-Echeverría, S; Correia, M; Timóteo, S; Heleno, R; **The biodiversity right beneath our eyes: Using above and belowground approaches to understand the ecological units of the Gorongosa National Park Mozambique** . (Talk) June 16-19, 2015, Coimbra (Portugal) - 4º Encontro Ibérico de Ecologia.

Teixeira, H; Rodríguez-Echeverría, S; **Genetic diversity of bacteria nodulating leguminous trees in the Gorongosa National Park (Mozambique)** . June 16-19, 2015, Coimbra (Portugal) - 4º Encontro Ibérico de Ecologia.

Rodríguez-Echeverría, S; Teixeira, H; Nabais, C; Garcia, C; **Genetic variation of Juniperus phoenicea turbinata across its Western distribution range** . June 16-19, 2015, Coimbra (Portugal) - 4º Encontro Ibérico de Ecologia.

2013

Teixeira, H; **"Biodiversity in Madagascar island: a field work approach"**. (Talk) December 3, 2013. Centro de Ecologia Funcional, Universidade de Coimbra (Portugal) - Ciclo de Palestras Científicas do CEF.

Teixeira H; DeSoto L; **Climate change over the Western Mediterranean and Atlantic Islands: a dendroclimatic and genetic survey of the genus Juniperus** . (Talk) November 13, 2012, Vairão, University of Porto (Portugal) - CIBIO meeting The multifarious evolutionary consequences of dispersal and gene flow: mating patterns, colonization, contemporary adaptation and speciation

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