

## CURRICULUM VITAE - VARUN SWAMY, Ph.D.

**CURRENT POSITION** (2008-): Postdoctoral Associate, Center for Tropical Conservation, Nicholas School of the Environment, Duke University Box 90328, Durham NC 27708, USA.

### I. EDUCATION

Ph.D. 2008. Nicholas School of the Environment, Duke University, Durham NC, USA.  
Dissertation: "Fruit to sapling: an ontogenetically integrated study of tree recruitment in an Amazonian rainforest". Advisor: Dr. John Terborgh.

B.A. 2001. Environmental Studies, *magna cum laude*, Connecticut College, New London CT, USA.

### II. CURRENT RESEARCH INTERESTS

Regeneration dynamics in tropical forests, plant-animal interactions, effects of hunting-induced defaunation on plant regeneration processes and patterns.

### III. PUBLICATIONS

**Swamy, V.**, J. Terborgh, K.G. Dexter, B.D. Best, P. Alvarez, F. Cornejo. 2011. Are all seeds equal? Spatially explicit comparisons of seed fall and sapling recruitment in a tropical forest. *Ecology Letters* 14:195-201

**Swamy, V.** & Terborgh, J. 2010. Distance-responsive natural enemies strongly influence seedling establishment patterns of multiple species in an Amazonian rainforest. *Journal of Ecology* 98:1096-1107.

Terborgh, J., G. Nuñez-Ituri, N. Pitman, F.H. Cornejo Valverde, P. Alvarez, **V. Swamy**, B. Pringle, C. E.T. Paine. 2008. Tree recruitment in an empty forest. *Ecology* 89(6): 1757-68.

**Swamy, V.**, P.E. Fell, M. Body, M.B. Keaney, M.K. Nyaku, E.C. McIlvain, A.L. Keen. 2002. Macroinvertebrates and fish populations in a restored impounded salt marsh 21 years after the re-establishment of tidal flooding. *Environmental Management* 29(4): 516-530.

Warren, R. S., P. E. Fell, R. Rozsa, A. H. Brawley, A. C. Orsted, E. T. Olson, **V. Swamy**, W. A. Niering. 2002. Salt marsh restoration in Connecticut: 20 years of science and management. *Restoration Ecology* 10(3): 497-513.

### IV. GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

#### Postdoctoral (2008-)

- Conservation, Food and Health Foundation Research Grant (\$25,000)
- National Science Foundation DEB 0742830 (co-authored with Dr. John Terborgh) (\$400,000)
- Wildlife Conservation Society Research Fellowship Program (\$20,000)
- Amazon Conservation Association (ACA) Postdoctoral Seed Grant (\$10,000)

#### Doctoral

- Lewis and Clark Fund for Exploration and Field Research, American Philosophical Society - 2007 (\$2700)
- Amazon Conservation Association (ACA) Graduate Research Grant - 2005-06. (\$4765)
- Francis Bossuyt Fellowship, Organization for Tropical Studies - 2004. (\$3000)
- Duke University Graduate School Research Travel Grants - 2006, 2003-04. (\$6600 total)
- Mellon Research Travel Grant, Duke University Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies - 2006, 2002-04. (\$4750 total)
- Sigma Xi Grants-in-Aid of Research Award - 2006. (\$700)

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### Predoctoral

- Mellon Science Foundation Grant for Undergraduate Research - 1999. (\$3000)

### V. OTHER RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

#### **2002** *Pollination ecology in a fragmented ecosystem*

- examined the direct and indirect impacts of habitat fragmentation on plant-pollinator interactions and plant reproductive success in Bolivar State, Venezuela.

#### **1999-2001** *Salt Marsh Restoration*

- examined restoration of invertebrate and fish populations on formerly impounded salt marshes in Barn Island Wildlife Management Area, Stonington, CT, USA.

- received Rankin Award for Best Undergraduate Student Presentation, New England Estuarine Research Society (NEERS) Spring 2000 conference, Portland, Maine.

### VI. TEACHING EXPERIENCE

**2010:** Co-Instructor, ENV 217: Tropical Ecology, Duke University, Spring 2010.

**2008:** Invited Lecturer, Amazonian Ecosystems and Global Change field course, Organization for Tropical Studies, Peru.

**2007:** Co-Instructor, Amazonian Forest Ecology & Ethnobotany field course, Connecticut College in Peru Fall 2007 study abroad program.

**2007:** Course Instructor, ENV 298.77: Topics in Tropical Forest Ecology and Conservation, Spring 2007, Duke University.

**2002-06:** Teaching Assistant, ENV 217: Tropical Ecology (course taught by Dr. John Terborgh), Duke University.

### VII. PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**2008-09** Station manager, Cocha Cashu Biological Station, Peru.

- coordinated and oversaw logistics of day-to-day operations and financial accounting of an international biological research station located in a remote area of Madre de Dios Department, southeastern Peru.

**2008-09** Member, Cocha Cashu Biological Station Advisory Board.

- participated in and contributed to strategic planning meetings and discussions concerning the administrative and financial future of Cocha Cashu Biological Station, Peru.

### VIII. REVIEWER SERVICES

Biological Conservation, PLoS ONE, Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B; National Science Foundation DEB grant proposals.

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### IX. PRESENTATIONS AT SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS

**Swamy, V.** 2010. *Tree recruitment patterns across an 85,000 sq.km western Amazonian river basin.* Annual Meeting of the Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation (ATBC) conference, Bali, Indonesia.

**Swamy, V.** 2010. *A basin-wide study of seed rain patterns in lowland western Amazonia.* 5th International Symposium-Workshop on Frugivores and Seed Dispersal, Montpellier, France.

**Swamy, V.** 2008. *Tropical tree recruitment: dispersal is critical, density is a red herring, distance is the key.* Annual Meeting of the Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation (ATBC) conference, Paramaribo, Suriname.

**Swamy, V.** 2007. *Pervasive distance effects (and not conspecific density per se) control early-stage tree recruitment in an Amazonian rainforest.* Annual Meeting of the Ecological Society of America (ESA), San Jose, California.

**Swamy, V.** & J. Terborgh. 2007. *Community-level distance effects are pervasive through multiple stages of tree recruitment in an Amazonian rainforest.* Annual Meeting of the Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation (ATBC) conference, Morelia, Mexico.

**Swamy, V.** and J. Terborgh. 2005. *From fruit to sapling: constructing an integrated picture of tropical tree recruitment.* Annual Meeting of the Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation (ATBC) conference, Uberlandia, Brazil.

**Swamy, V.** and P.E. Fell. 2000. *Macroinvertebrates and fish populations in a restored impounded salt marsh 21 years after the re-establishment of tidal flooding.* New England Estuarine Research Society (NEERS) Spring Conference, Portland, Maine.

### X. INVITED TALKS AND SEMINARS

Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology & Environment, Bangalore, India. January 2010.

Center for Ecological Studies, Indian Institute of Sciences, Bangalore, India. January 2010.

National Conservation Foundation, Mysore, India. January 2010.

Department of Environmental Science, Policy & Management, University of California, Berkeley, CA. May 2006.

Department of Biological Sciences, Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA. May 2006.

### XI. LANGUAGES

English (native), Spanish (fluent in reading, writing, conversation), Portuguese (basic), Hindi (basic), Tamil (native).

## REFERENCES

1) Dr. John Terborgh, Research Professor Emeritus and Director, Center for Tropical Conservation, Duke University, USA.

Address: Center for Tropical Conservation, Duke University Box 90381, Durham NC 27708.

Tel: +1-919-401-7237, +1-919-419-8368.

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2) Dr. Mercedes Foster, Research Zoologist, Smithsonian Institution.

Address: Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution Division of Birds, 10th and Constitution Ave, NW, Washington, DC 20560-0116, USA.

Tel: +1-202-633-0788

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3) Dr. Miles Silman, Associate Professor of Biology, Wake Forest University

Address: Department of Biology, 1834 Wake Forest Rd, Winston-Salem, NC 27106, USA.

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