



Curriculum Vitae

Tom W. Brown, MRes.

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Personal Profile

I am a 27 year old British citizen and 5 year resident of Honduras. From an early age, I have always had a keen insatiable passion for wildlife and conservation. It was this interest which compelled me to want a job where I would be working closely with the environment, aspiring to research in tropical ecosystems with threatened species. As I developed and grew, I became regionally specialized in herpetology, yet on route have gained valuable experience researching a wide variety of fauna in various ecosystems. I am a very motivated MRes (Sc) postgraduate from the University of Nottingham, UK; seeking to make a positive difference through my work and research. It is my aspiration to be a local pioneer for endangered species, publish the results of my scientific and biological observations to expand knowledge with the hope of informing further research and conserving threatened components of biodiversity.

Education

- Sep 2011 – Sep 2013* **University of Plymouth**
Bachelor of Science, BSc Environmental Science (hons)
Plymouth, England, United Kingdom
Thesis title: The abundance and distribution of threatened amphibians in Cusuco National Park, Honduras.
- Feb 2019 – Sep 2020* **University of Nottingham**
Master of Research - MRes Geography (Sc)
Nottingham, England, United Kingdom
Thesis title: Ecological responses of an endemic lizard (*Anolis bicaorum*) to rapid habitat degradation on Utila Island, Honduras.

Relevant Work Experience

- Jan 2016 – present* **Biodiversity Research Coordinator (Board of Managing Directors)**
Kanahau Utila Research & Conservation Facility, Utila Island, Honduras

I am a passionate addition to a small dedicated team of field scientists, together seeking to increase the recognition of biodiversity on Utila Island. I am primarily involved with all forms of biodiversity and herpetology research at Kanahau, helping with the day to day running of the small research facility, volunteer coordination, supervising university students, community outreach and education, and other conservation activities. My independent research role at the facility focuses predominantly on surveying and ultimately conserving a wide variety of herpetofauna, including endemic species of Anole, Gecko, and Iguana; however our work also includes bats, birds, invertebrate and marine-based studies. My unpaid position on the board of directors oversees the direction of research and conservation action undertaken by the facility. The most prominent of my research is that focusing on the endemic *Anolis* lizards which occur on the island, of which I sought to classify both species on the IUCN Redlist and work towards actively protecting habitat. I am also active in the development and implementation of an IUCN SSC Action plan to conserve a critically endangered iguana *Ctenosaura bakeri* (see www.kanahau.com for more general details).

Jun 2012 – Dec 2018 **Expedition Field Staff - Senior Herpetologist**
Operation Wallacea (Opwall), Research Team
Cusuco National Park, (PNC), Honduras

Initially I travelled to Honduras as a student to collect my dissertation data on 'The abundance and distribution of Amphibians in Cusuco NP', and factors influencing their decline. During this time, I gained my first hands-on experience deep in Honduran Cloud forest for 6 weeks collecting my dissertation data among other researchers and scientists, collectively working towards obtaining biodiversity data so sustainable management and conservation can be put in place. Due to my passion in the field, I was invited back as Staff Herpetologist the following five consecutive 9 week seasons, and then served as Senior Herpetologist (2016, 2017, and 2018) for the Honduras site, training new staff and students before performing and overseeing the research. To date, I still remain in contact with management and voluntarily assist in data analysis and research publications relevant to my expertise. Through this role I have gained lots of field exposure as a conservation biologist, and have obtained vital and applicable knowledge about identification, research methods and catching/handling of many species in Mesoamerica. The role at Operation Wallacea also presented an opportunity to compile and write a complete identification field guide named 'The Herpetofauna of Cusuco National Park, Honduras'. Having been field tested and reviewed from 2015 – 2018, I am hopeful the guide can be published in the near future (Brown, Arrivillaga, Jocque, in.press). See website for general details - <https://www.opwall.com/about-opwall/>

Memberships

Mesoamerican and Caribbean Network for the Conservation of Amphibians and Reptiles – a group of professional biologists working to promote the research and conservation of herpetofauna in Mesoamerica - <https://redmesoherp.wixsite.com/red-mesoherp>

Achievements & Awards

PADI Open Water (England, UK) 2009, PADI Advanced Diver Qualification (Utila, Honduras) 2013

PADI Caribbean Coral Reef Ecology (Speciality Diver Qualification) 2013

Canopy Access Course (Operation Wallacea) 2014

Neo-tropical Jungle Training (Operation Wallacea) 2013

Education through Expeditions (ETE) Leadership Award (University of Plymouth) 2014

Animal Management Internship (The Belize Zoo) 2015

Venomous Snake Handling Course (Naturally Wild) 2015

Iguana Specialist Group (ISG) Conference Meeting 2019 – Roatan, Honduras; Poster presentation

Grants

- May 2017 \$6000 Mohammed bin Zayed (MBZ): Population Status and Conservation Requirements of the Bica Anole (*Norops bicaorum*) – www.speciesconservation.org/case-studies-projects/bica-anole/15600
- April 2018 \$1990 Crowder Messersmith Fund: Creating a flagship species for conservation; Environmental education and community engagement with regards to the Utila Spiny-tailed Iguana on Utila Island, Honduras

Journal Publications / Scientific Reports

Owing to my work so far I have been involved with publishing over 40 articles in scientific journals, all of which I have made available on **Researchgate** - https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Tom_Brown_42

1. Tom W. Brown et al. 2017. *Habitat diversification and natural history observations in *Norops utilensis* (Squamata; Dactyloidae) on Isla de Utila, Honduras*. Mesoamerican Herpetology.
2. Tom W. Brown et al. 2017. *Nocturnal activity facilitated by artificial lighting in diurnal *Norops sagrei* (Squamata: Dactyloidae) on Isla de Flores, Guatemala*. Mesoamerican Herpetology
3. Tom W. Brown et al. 2017. *Distribution and natural history notes on *Norops bicaorum* (Squamata: Dactyloidae) endemic to Isla de Utila, Honduras*. Mesoamerican Herpetology.
4. Tom W Brown et al. 2018. *Color Change in the Gorgetal Scales of an Anole, *Anolis amplisquamosus* (Squamata: Dactyloidae)*. IRCF Reptiles & Amphibians journal.
5. Tom W Brown et al. 2018. *Arboreality and diet in Pacific Long-tailed snakes, *Enulius flavitorques* (Squamata: Dipsadidae), and a potential adaptive hypothesis for egg attendance in Honduran Leaf-toed Geckos, *Phyllodactylus palmeus* (Squamata: Phyllodactylidae)*. IRCF journal
6. Tom W. Brown et al. 2019. *Just hanging out? – Predation of cave dwelling bats (e.g. *Natalus mexicanus*) by Tropical Ratsnake (*Pseudelaphe flavirufa*) on Utila Island, Honduras*. SAURIA.
7. Tom W. Brown et al. 2019. *Confirmation of the Mourning Gecko, *Lepidodactylus lugubris* (Duméril and Bibron 1836), on Isla de Utila, with Remarks on the Island's Invasive Reptiles*. IRCF journal.
8. Tom W. Brown et al. 2020. *Unexpectedly high *Sphaerodactylus* diversity on a Caribbean island; New locality for the Honduran endemic *Sphaerodactylus dunnii* Schmidt, 1936 (Gekkonidae: Sphaerodactylidae) on Utila Island, Honduras*. Amphibian & Reptile Conservation.
9. Tom W. Brown et al. 2020. *Caribbean Sharp-nosed Pufferfish (*Tetraodontidae: Canthigaster rostrata*) Tetrodotoxin Poisoning in Two Dogs in Honduras*. Caribbean Journal of Science.
10. Tom W. Brown et al. 2020. *Reporting a new locality for *Voyria aphylla* (Gentianaceae) on Isla de Utila, Honduras*. Scientia hondurensis.

References

I have confirmation and references related to field, study and work experiences, as well as written character references from colleagues and scientific peers which are available upon request.

Thank you for taking the time to read my CV.