

# Yesenia Valverde

2610 E.15th St. • National City, CA 91950

Phone: (619) 823-5037 • E-Mail: yesenia\_valverde@alumni.brown.edu

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## EDUCATION

- Brown University**, Sc.B. Environmental Science, Conservation Science & Policy Track **Providence, RI**  
2013-2017
- Relevant coursework includes: Principles of Ecology, Conservation Biology, Terrestrial Biogeochemistry, Statistical Analysis of Biological Data, Intro to GIS, and Experimental Design in Ecology
- Hilltop High School** **Chula Vista, CA**  
2009-2013
- Class of 2013 Salutatorian, AP Scholar with Distinction, National Hispanic Recognition Program Scholar
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## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- NSF International Research Experience for Students**, Student Participant (Texas Tech University) **June-Sept. 2018**
- Participated in the project, “Sustainable Development of a Tropical Agroforestry Program in the Rural Borneo Highlands”, based in Sabah, Malaysia
  - Collected baseline ecological data to record the response of degraded tropical forest to the introduction of an agroforestry system
  - Served as the U.S. student lead on the arthropod community ecology project, surveying the canopy ant community using an insecticide fogger to study changes in species composition between forest and agriculture sites
  - Assisted in small mammal trapping
- Sax Lab**, Undergraduate Researcher (Brown University) **2015-2017**
- Completed a senior thesis, titled *Racing Climate Change: A 45-year Analysis of Range Shifts in Tropical Birds*, which examined how the altitudinal distributions of birds in a tropical montane cloud forest have changed in response to climate change
  - Mist netted in Monteverde, Costa Rica to resurvey the bird community as part of a long-term dataset
- Sax Lab**, Undergraduate Research Assistant; Work-study (Brown University) **Fall 2016**
- Processed commercial nursery data for Prof. Sax’s research, examining the relationship between species’ fundamental and tolerance niches, with implications for conservation management
- Page Lab**, Intern (Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute) **Spring 2016**
- Worked as an intern for Dr. Gerry Carter, a postdoctoral researcher studying cooperation, communication, and social cognition in vampire bats
  - Performed a y-maze experiment with vampire bats to study how they used multimodal sensory cues
  - Mist netted bats in lower montane forests of Gamboa, targeting *T.cirrhusus* and *L. silvicolum*
- Sax Lab**, Hollenbeck Research Team Assistant (Monteverde, Costa Rica) **Summer 2015**
- Field assistant for a project studying fine-scale distributions of epiphytic species in the tropical montane cloud forest of Monteverde, measuring climatic tolerances and predicting extinction risks
  - Climbed trees to retrieve study species specimens from the canopy
  - Measured a suite of ecophysiological traits (e.g. turgor loss point, bulk elastic modulus, leaf dry matter content) by performing pressure-volume curves
  - Used R to process raw climate data
- Resilient RI Research Group**, Student Intern (Brown University) **Fall 2014**
- Collaborated with students, professors, and government consultants to implement environmental policies in Rhode Island’s government agencies
- City of San Diego- Balboa Park**, Park Ranger Intern **Summer 2014**
- Created a plant survey at Chollas Lake Park and deigned a Junior Park Ranger Program
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## LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Learning Exchange**, Coordinator; Work-study (Brown University) **2014-Fall 2017**
- Led a program that engaged 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders in computer coding through project-based learning
- California Scholarship Federation**, Chapter President (Hilltop High) **2013**
- Organized college visits for seniors and created an after school peer-tutoring program
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## HONORS

- First Place in ‘Earth, Itself’ Student Poster Competition**, Institute at Brown for Environment and Society **2017**
- Ecology & Evolutionary Biology Diversity Recruitment Weekend**, Cornell University **2017**
- Voss Environmental Fellowship**, Institute at Brown for Environment and Society **2016**
- Royce Fellowship**, Brown University **2016**
- Phil & Alice Creaser Foundation Scholarship**, Hilltop High **2013**
- Berkeley Summer Experience**, University of California: Berkeley **2012**
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## SKILLS

**Language:** Fluent in English and Spanish, Intermediate in Portuguese

**Technical:** PC and Mac operating systems; MS Office proficiency: Word, PowerPoint, and Excel; iWork proficiency: Pages, Keynote; R; JMP (basic); Adobe CC: After Effects, Photoshop (basic)