

Dr. Diego Francisco Figueroa

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
School of Earth, Environmental, and Marine Sciences
(956) 882-5982
Email: diego.figueroa@utrgv.edu

Education

PhD, Oregon State University , 2010

Major: Oceanography

MS, Oregon State University, 2004

Major: Oceanography

Employment

Academic - Post-Secondary

Academic - Post-Secondary, Assistant Professor, School of Earth, Environmental, and Marine Sciences , University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, (2015)

Academic - Post-Secondary, Assistant Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, The University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College, (2014 - 2015)

Academic - Post-Secondary, Faculty Researcher, Department of Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Science, Florida State University, (2013 - 2014)

Academic - Post-Secondary, Assistant Instructor, Department of Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Science, Florida State University, (2012 - 2013)

Academic - Post-Secondary, Postdoctoral Researcher, Department of Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Science, Florida State University, (2011 - 2012)

Academic - Post-Secondary, Postdoctoral Researcher, College of Ocean and Atmospheric Sciences, Oregon State University, (2010 - 2011)

Academic - Post-Secondary, Teaching Assistant, Biology, Oregon State University, (2009 - 2010)

Academic - Post-Secondary, Teaching Assistant, Biological Oceanography, Oregon State University, (2009 - 2009)

Academic - Post-Secondary, Graduate Student Researcher, College of Ocean and Atmospheric Sciences, Oregon State University, (2006 - 2009)

Academic - Post-Secondary, Graduate Research Assitant, College of Ocean and Atmospheric Sciences, Oregon State University, (2003 - 2005)

Academic - Post-Secondary, Assistant Researcher, Invertebrate Ecology, University of Alaska Southeast, (1999 - 2000)

Professional

Professional, Visiting Scientist, Department of Invertebrate Zoology, Smithsonian Institution Natural History Museum, (2011 - 2011)

Professional, Visiting Scientist, Department of Marine Research, Galapagos National Park Service, (2004 - 2006)

Professional, Visiting Scientist, Department of Marine Biology, Charles Darwin Research Station, (2002 - 2002)

Professional, Data Analyst/Internship, Biodiversity Studies, Conservation International, (2000 - 2001)

Publications

Journal Article, Academic Journal

Diego Figueroa and Frank Ferrari. Redescription of the American pontellid, *Pontella meadii* (Copepoda, Calanoida).: *Bulletin of Marine Science*.

Grant McCall and Anthony Akpan and Doru Banaduc and Diego Figueroa and Nelson Fontoura and Robert Hitchcock and Sherman Horn and Devashish Kar and Thong Tran. The Estuarine Ecological Knowledge Network Makes Progress: International Project Sites and Potential Ways Forward.: *Marine Technology Society Journal*. (June) 3, : 116-117.

Diego Figueroa. Environmental forcing on zooplankton distribution in the coastal waters of the Galapagos Islands: spatial and seasonal patterns in the copepod community structure.: *Marine Ecology Progress Series*. 661, : 49-69.

Joan Cartes and Diego Figueroa. Deep Sea Isopods from the western Mediterranean: distribution and habitat.: *Progress in Oceanography*. 188,

Nicole Figueroa and Diego Figueroa and David Hicks. Phylogeography of *Acartia tonsa* (Calanoida:Copepoda) and phylogenetic reconstruction of the genus *Acartia*.: *Marine Biodiversity*. (February)

Diego Figueroa and Joan Cartes and Nicole Figueroa. Insights to the genetic structure of *Calanus helgolandicus* (Calanoida: Copepoda) from deep-sea specimens in the Balearic Sea.: *Crustacean Research*. (November)

Hilary Frandsen and Diego Figueroa and Jeff George. Mitochondrial genomes and genetic structure of the Kemp's ridley sea turtle (*Lepidochelys kempii*).: *Ecology and Evolution*. (December)

Samantha Silvestri and Diego Figueroa and Nicole Figueroa and David Hicks. Mitogenomic phylogenetic analyses of *Leptogorgia virgulata* and *Leptogorgia hebes* (Anthozoa: Octocorallia) from the Gulf of Mexico provides insight on Gorgoniidae divergence between Pacific and Atlantic lineages.: *Ecology and Evolution*. (November)

Diego Figueroa and David Hicks and Nicole Figueroa. The complete mitochondrial genome of *Tanacetipathes thamnea* Warner, 1981 (Antipatharia: Myriopathidae).: *Mitochondrial DNA Part B*. (November)

Diego Figueroa and Amelia McClure and Nicole Figueroa and David Hicks. Hiding in plain sight: invasive coral *Tubastraea tagusensis* (Scleractinia:Hexacorallia) in the Gulf of Mexico.: *Coral Reefs*. (June) 38, : 395-403.

Hilary Frandsen and Diego Figueroa and Jeff George. Implication of tire ruts on frenzied dispersal of Kemp's Ridley (*Lepidochelys kempii*) hatchlings.: *Herpetological Conservation and Biology*.

Diego Figueroa and Amy Baco. Octocoral mitochondrial genomes provide insights into the phylogenetic history of gene order rearrangements, order reversals, and cnidarian phylogenetics.: *Genome biology and evolution*. 7, : 391–409.

Diego Figueroa and Amy Baco. Complete mitochondrial genomes elucidate phylogenetic relationships of the deep-sea octocoral families Coralliidae and Paragorgiidae.: *Deep Sea Research Part II: Topical Studies in Oceanography*. 99, : 83–91.

Diego Figueroa. Phylogenetic analysis of *Ridgewayia* (Copepoda: Calanoida) from the Galapagos and of a new species from the Florida keys with a reevaluation of the phylogeny of Calanoida.: *Journal of Crustacean Biology*. 31, : 153–165.

Diego Figueroa. Two New Calanoid Copepods from the Galapagos Islands: *Pseudocyclops juanibali* N. SP. and *Pseudocyclops saenzi* N. SP.: *Journal of Crustacean Biology*. 31, : 725–741.

Diego Figueroa and Kellie Hoefel. Description of two new species of *Ridgewayia* (Copepoda: Calanoida) from anchialine caves in the Galapagos Archipelago.: *Journal of Crustacean Biology*. 28, : 137–147.

E Espinoza and Diego Figueroa. The role of sharks in the Galapagos Islands tourism industry.: *Informe interno Estacion Cientifica Charles Darwin. Islas Galapagos, Ecuador*.

Contracts, Grants and Sponsored Research

Diego Francisco Figueroa. Grant Gulf Research Collaboration Grant National Academies of Science Private , 33270\$ (December 2016 - December 2019)

Diego Francisco Figueroa. Fellowship Early Career Gulf Research Fellowship National Academies of Science Private , 76000\$ (December 2015 - December 2019)

Diego Francisco Figueroa and David W Hicks. Grant The South Texas Banks Ecosystem: Oceanography, Biodiversity and Genetics Texas Sea Grant Program State , 179027\$ (December 2014 - December 2019)

Diego Francisco Figueroa and Elizabeth Nyman and Nuno Nunes and Mark Dion and Janet Hwang. Grant Promoting Public Stewardship of the Deep Blue Sea Through Real-Time Interaction With a Mesophotic Reef The National Academies of Sciences Private , 100000\$ (May 2017 - August 2019)

Diego Francisco Figueroa. Grant Faculty Research Council Award University of Texas Rio Grande Valley The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley , 25000\$ (December 2015 - December 2018)

Diego Francisco Figueroa and Brandon Ballengee and Christopher Hayes and Adam Skarke and David Murphy. Grant Creating Resilience: Building a Gulf of Mexico NAKFI Alumni Working Group The National Academies of Sciences Private , 25000\$ (May 2017 - December 2018)

Awards and Honors

Scholarship/Research

Early Career Gulf Research Fellowship. National Academies of Sciences (2016)

Denner Memorial Graduate Student Fellowship. College of Oceanic and Atmospheric Sciences, Oregon State University (2007)

Nancy Foster Marine Science Fellowship. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (2005)

Rodman Scholar. University of Virginia (1996)

Guest presenter at the 5Th European Science and Engineering Fair. European Science and Engineering Fair (1995)

Grand Prize Winner International Science and Engineering Fair. Science Service (1994)

Westinghouse Science Talent Search Finalist. Westinghouse (1994)

Service, Community

National Science Foundation GK-12 Fellowship. Oregon State University (2002)

Presentations

Diego Francisco Figueroa."Colonization and Speciation in Marine Caves of the Galapagos Islands ".Department of Biology Seminar, Texas State University, San Marcos, TX. (April 19, 2019)

Diego Francisco Figueroa and Elizabeth Nyman."Promoting public stewardship of the deep blue sea through real-time interaction with a mesophotic reef".Discovering the Deep Blues Sea Mid-Cycle Grant Meeting, National Academies Keck Futures Initiative, Huntington Beach, California. (June 19, 2018)

Nicole J Figueroa and Diego Francisco Figueroa and Joan E Cartes."Genetic Structure of *Calanus helgolandicus* (Calanoida:Copepoda) from the deep Balearic Sea".9th International Crustacean Congress, The Crustacean Society, Washington D.C.. (May 22, 2018)

Diego Francisco Figueroa and Samantha Silvestry."Fine-scale vertical community structure of zooplankton at a mesophotic reef and adjacent shelf break in the Gulf of Mexico".13th International Conference on Copepoda, World Association of Copepodologists, Los Angeles, California. (July 16, 2017)

Diego Francisco Figueroa and David W Hicks and Nicole J Figueroa."Phylogeography of an estuarine copepod, *Acartia tonsa* (Copepoda; Calanoida) from the Texas Gulf of Mexico".13th International Conference on Copepoda, World Association of Copepodologists, Los Angeles, California. (July 16, 2017)

David W Hicks and Linda Jordan and Diego Francisco Figueroa."Mesophotic fish communities of relic reefs off the South Texas coast.".Association for the Sciences of Limnology and Oceanography (ASLO), Association for the Sciences of Limnology and Oceanography (ASLO), Honolulu, Hawaii. (February 26, 2017)

David W Hicks and Nicole Figueroa and Diego Francisco Figueroa."Phylogeography of an estuarine copepod, *Acartia tonsa* (calanoida: copepoda) from the Texas Gulf of Mexico".Association for the Sciences of Limnology and Oceanography (ASLO), Association for the Sciences of Limnology and Oceanography (ASLO), Honolulu, Hawaii. (February 26, 2017)

David W Hicks and Diego Francisco Figueroa."The South Texas Banks Ecosystem: Oceanography, Biodiversity and Genetics.".Association for the Sciences of Limnology and Oceanography (ASLO), Association for the Sciences of Limnology and Oceanography (ASLO), Honolulu, Hawaii. (February 26, 2017)

David W Hicks and Maria Cooksey and Diego Francisco Figueroa and Emma Hickerson."Modeling mesophotic coral communities of two South Texas Banks in the Northwestern Gulf of Mexico: North Hospital and Hospital Bank.".13th International Coral Reef Symposium, International Coral Reef, Honolulu, Hawaii. (June 19, 2016)

Teaching

Teaching Experience

BIOL 1107, Biology for Science Majors II Lab, 1 Course(s)

BIOL 1107, Biology for Science Majors II Lab - Audit, 1 Course(s)

BIOL 1108, Biology Non-Science Majors Lab I, 1 Course(s)

BIOL 1307, Biology for Science Majors II, 1 Course(s)

BIOL 1309, Biology for Non-Science Majors II, 1 Course(s)

BIOL 2310, Marine Ecosystem Dynamics, 10 Course(s)

BIOL 2310, Marine Processes and Ecosystem Dynamics, 1 Course(s)

BIOL 3301, Biological Evolution, 1 Course(s)

BIOL 3430, Marine Biology Field Methods, 2 Course(s)

BIOL 4301, Evolution, 9 Course(s)

BIOL 4399, Research Problems in Biology, 4 Course(s)

BIOL 4426, Marine Ecology, 2 Course(s)

BIOL 6185, Graduate Research, 2 Course(s)

BIOL 6285, Graduate Research, 2 Course(s)

BIOL 6385, Graduate Research, 3 Course(s)

BIOL 6685, Graduate Research, 3 Course(s)

BIOL 7300, Thesis I, 1 Course(s)

BIOL 7301, Thesis II, 5 Course(s)

EEMS 6285, Graduate Research, 4 Course(s)

EEMS 6385, Graduate Research, 4 Course(s)

EEMS 6685, Graduate Research, 2 Course(s)

EEMS 7100, Continuing Thesis, 11 Course(s)
EEMS 7300, Thesis I, 3 Course(s)
EEMS 7301, Thesis II, 4 Course(s)
ENVR 4303, Envr Sci Res Proj, 1 Course(s)
ENVR 5370, TpcsEnvSci:Marine Eco Dynamics, 1 Course(s)
GEOL 1345, Introduction to Oceanography, 9 Course(s)
MARS 2310, Marine Ecosystem Dynamics, 8 Course(s)
MARS 3430, Marine Biology Field Methods, 6 Course(s)
MARS 4399, Research Problems, 4 Course(s)
MARS 4426, Marine Ecology, 2 Course(s)
MARS 6302, Marine Ecosystems Dynamics, 3 Course(s)

Non-Credit Instruction

- Guest Lecture, 25. (2015)
- Workshop, 4. (2015)

Directed Student Learning

Master's Thesis Committee Chair, Jillian Everly. School of Earth, Environmental, and Marine Sciences. (June 2020)
Master's Thesis Committee Chair, German Torres. School of Earth, Environmental, and Marine Sciences. (2018)
Doctoral Advisory Committee Member, Rogelio Huesca. Biophysical modeling of coral larvae in the Northwestern Gulf of Mexico, Other (outside UTRGV). (2017)
Master's Thesis Committee Member, Bobby Faircloth. (2017 - 2019)
Master's Thesis Committee Chair, Amelia McClure. GENETICS AND MORPHOLOGY OF INVASIVE TUBASTRAEA SPECIES WITHIN THE GULF OF MEXICO; A CASE STUDY OF SPECIES MISIDENTIFICATION AND DISTRIBUTION, Department of Biology. (2015 - 2019)
Undergraduate Supervised Research, Akilan Mohana. Life traits of fish inhabiting mesophotic reefs in the Gulf of Mexico, School of Mathematical and Statistical Science. (2017 - 2018)
Undergraduate Supervised Research, German Torres. Biodiversity of Zooplankton at Mesophotic Reefs, Biological Sciences (UTB). (2017 - 2018)
Undergraduate Supervised Research, Leslie Hernandez and Sandra Leal and Ariel Ruiz and Eliseo Soto. Zooplankton of Laguna Madre, Department of Biology. (2017 - 2018)
Master's Thesis Committee Member, Evan Bare. (2016 - 2018)
Master's Thesis Committee Chair, Hilary Frandsen. Conservation Genetics of Kemp's Ridley (*Lepidochelys kempii*) Sea Turtles, Department of Biology. (2015 - 2018)
Master's Thesis Committee Chair, Samantha Silvestri. Conservation Genetics of Kemp's Ridley (*Lepidochelys kempii*) Sea Turtles, Department of Biology. (2015 - 2018)
Master's Thesis Committee Member, Heather Otte. (2015 - 2018)
Undergraduate Supervised Research, Sandra Leal and German Torres and Leslie Hernandez and Luis Garza. Zooplankton taxonomy, Biological Sciences (UTB). (2016 - 2017)
Master's Thesis Committee Member, Robert Figueroa-Downing. (2015 - 2017)
Internship Advisor, Samantha Silvestri. Gladys Porter Zoo, Biological Sciences (UTB). (January 2017 - August 2017)
Internship Advisor, Hilary Frandsen. Sea Turtle Inc, Biological Sciences (UTB). (August 2016 - December 2016)
Undergraduate Supervised Research, Elizabeth Hurtado and Sergio Gonzales and Jaione Rosagaray and German Torres and Eleane Perez and Brianda Montoya and Jheanelle Dietrich. Zooplankton taxonomy and ecology and Sea turtle genetics, Department of Biology. (2015 - 2016)
Master's Thesis Committee Member, Linda Jordan. Biological Sciences (UTB). (2014 - 2016)

Service

Department Service

Committee Chair, M.S. OCES Curriculum Committee (2019)
Committee Chair, OCES Graduate Admissions (2019)
Other, Program Coordinator Ocean, Coastal, and Environmental Sciences (2019)
Committee Member, B.S. Marine Biology Curriculum, Program Evaluation, and Assessment Committee (2018)
Committee Member, SEEMS IDC Advisory Committee (2018)

Committee Member, Faculty Search Committee (2017 - 2018)

Committee Member, Graduate Curriculum and Assessment (2015 - 2018)

Committee Member, Graduate Committee (2014 - 2018)

Committee Member, Faculty Search Committee (2016 - 2017)

Committee Member, Tenure and Promotion Guidelines (2015 - 2017)

Committee Member, Scholarship Committee (2014 - 2015)

College Service

Committee Member, College of Sciences Graduate Committee (2019)

Committee Member, Tenure and Promotion Guidelines (2015 - 2016)

Committee Member, Dean's Travel Committee (2014 - 2015)

Professional Service

Reviewer, Grant Proposal, National Academy of Sciences Gulf Research Program. (2018)

Other, Center for Human-Environmental Research. (2017)

Other, World Register of Marine Species. (2017)

Reviewer, Grant Proposal, Texas Sea Grant College Program's Annual Grants-In-Aid of Graduate Research. (2016)

Reviewer, Book, Evolution Fourth Edition by Doug Futuyma and Mark Kirkpatrick. (2016 - 2017)

Reviewer, Journal Article, Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution. (2016 - 2017)

Other, National Academies of Science Keck Futures Initiative. (November 9, 2016 - November 12, 2016)

Reviewer, Book, Essentials of Oceanography by Trujillo and Thurman. (2014 - 2015)

Reviewer, Journal Article, Journal Cladistics. (2014 - 2015)

Professional Memberships

Center for Human-Environmental Research, (CHER) (December 19, 2017)

World Association of Copepodologists, (WAC) (2017)

International Society for Reef Studies, (ISRS) (2016)

Texas OneGulf Network of Experts, (TONE) (2015)

International network for scientific investigation of deep-sea ecosystems, (INDEEP) (2011)

Public Service

Other, K-12 Outreach. (2016)