Maria A. Aliberti-Lubertazzi

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2009 Ph.D., Environmental Science **University of Rhode Island**
Department of Plant Sciences & Entomology
Dissertation: *Natal habitat use by dragonflies along landscape gradients in Rhode Island*

2000 M.Sc., Environmental Studies **Antioch University of New England**
Degree focus: Environmental Biology Minor focus: Environmental Education Thesis: *Odonate nymphs as potential indicators of water quality in ponds of northeastern Massachusetts*

1997 Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship **Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina**
Studied for two semesters in the Exact/Natural Sciences and Agronomy schools, as a *Preserve Planet Earth Scholar*
Coursework included intensive entomology and botanical systematics; also ethnobiology, environmental ecology, field ornithology

1992 B.A. *cum laude* **Middlebury College**
Double major: Biology and Spanish; biology focus on ecology and organismal biology
Semester abroad (in Spanish): Universidad de Costa Rica (spring 1991): ecology/natural history, art, literature

ACADEMIA & TEACHING

Adjunct faculty

2011 – present **Rhode Island School of Design**
Division of Liberal Arts: HPSS
Interim faculty: Ecology of Here and Now (spring 2011)
Created and taught elective natural science courses: Introduction to Insect Morphology and Ecology (fall); Urban Ecology: How Wildlife Interacts with an Urbanizing Landscape (spring); Many Ways to Have a Relationship: Symbioses in Nature (fall, winter session)
Oversaw Student Independent Study of insects and the structures they build (fall ’12, winter ’22)
Tertiary committee member: Master’s thesis in Landscape Architecture (spring ’22), Master’s thesis in Sculpture (spring ’25).

2004 – 2006 **Antioch University of New England**
Environmental Studies Department (graduate program)
Designed and taught: Aquatic Invertebrate Ecology

Teaching Assistant

2003 – 2007 **University of Rhode Island**
Department of Plant Sciences and Entomology: Introductory Entomology; Humans, Insects and Disease; Invertebrate Symbiosis; Emerging Infectious Disease (Honors); Herbaceous Plant Taxonomy, Plant Propagation; Botany for Gardeners; Floriculture and Greenhouse Management

2002 – 2003
Department of Biological Sciences: Biology I, Biology II, Human Physiology

Outside of Academia

2009 Interim Natural Science Teacher Advent School, Boston, MA
Taught natural science to 1st, 3rd and 5th graders at private elementary school

1996 Teacher Assistant – Naturalist Massachusetts Audubon Society
Organized environmental education program for Boston elementary schools, with college student volunteers

FIELD AND LABORATORY: Consulting

2025 **RINHS Godzala Grant/RISD (PI)**
Pilot Project: description and documentation of gall-making fauna and flora of Rhode Island. Survey, raise, document, produce outreach materials with variety of media; with student interns.

2016 – present **Mount Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge, MA**
Conducting long-term monitoring of emerging dragonfly populations at 4 ponds on the property; citizen-science data collection (2018 – 2025); summer interns (2017, 2022); outreach for Lesley University's WonderLab summer camp (2017 – 2018)

2013 **RISD's Nature Lab, Providence, RI**
Oversaw renovation of the study insect collection by mentoring student interns

12/2008 – 1/2009 **Horsley Witten Group, Sandwich, MA**

FIELD AND LABORATORY: Research Assistant, Internships

11/2007 **Dept. of Envir. Biology, Curtin University of Technology**
Ant – seed ecology research Perth, Western Australia

2007 **Biological Control Laboratory**
Summer technician University of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI

2006 **USGS & Dept. Plant Sciences & Entomology**
Mosquito identification (adults) University of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI

2002 **Department of Entomology**
Digital database technician Harvard Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge, MA
Used light-microscopy photographs and image and database software to archive insect type-specimens

2002 **Mass. Dept. of Env. Protection, DWM/**
Macroinvertebrate taxonomist NE Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission
Stream macroinvertebrate sampling and identification for regional biocriteria study; slide preparation, data processing

1999 - 2002 **New England Aquarium, Boston, MA**
Research Assistant, *Aquatic Biodiversity Research group*
Collected, sorted and identified pond and wetland macroinvertebrates from study sites in northeastern MA, Block Island, RI and Nantucket; trained summer interns in lab tasks; assisted in experimental design, coordination of interns, water quality testing, and other field and lab tasks.

2000 – 2001 **Massachusetts Audubon Society, Lincoln, MA**
Research Assistant, *Center for Biological Conservation: Aquatic Ecology Lab*
Collected and identified macroinvertebrates from Massachusetts vernal pools, assisted in data entry and management, report-generating and outreach tasks.

1999 **Essex County Greenbelt Association. Essex, MA**
Volunteer intern: Conducted surveys of amphibians, invertebrates and wildflowers in and around vernal pools at Greenbelt properties in North Andover, MA

1998 **The Lloyd Center for Environmental Studies**, **South Dartmouth, MA**
Research Intern: Conducted larval and adult Lepidoptera and vegetation surveys in southeastern MA and survey of adult odonate fauna of Ponkapoag Bog/Pond; assisted with data organization and analysis, bimonthly bird census, outreach and interpretation activities

1993 – 1995 **Brigham and Womens Hospital, Boston, MA**
Bilingual Research Assistant: *The Maternal and Infant Smoking Study of East Boston*
Performed interviews and pulmonary function testing on mothers and their children (4 – 6 yrs) in English and Spanish: for community-based public health study

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

M. L. May, J. A. Gregoire, S. Gregoire, M. Aliberti Lubertazzi, J. H. Matthews. 2017. Emergence phenology, uncertainty, and the evolution of migratory behavior in *Anax junius* (Odonata: Aeshnidae). *PLOS ONE* 12(9): e0183508. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0183508

M. Aliberti Lubertazzi and H. Ginsberg. 2010. Emerging dragonfly diversity at small Rhode Island (U.S.A.) wetlands along an urbanization gradient. *Urban Ecosystems*. 13(4): 517-533.

D. Lubertazzi, M. A. Aliberti Lubertazzi, N. McCoy, A. D. Gove, J. D. Majer, R. R. Dunn. 2010. The Ecology of a Keystone Seed Disperser, *Rhytidoponera violacea*, with Implications for the Evolution of Myrmecochory. *Journal of Insect Science*. Vol. 10, Article 158.

M. Aliberti Lubertazzi and H. Ginsberg. 2009. Persistence of Dragonfly Exuviae on Vegetation and Rock Substrates. *Northeastern Naturalist*. 16(1): 141-147.

INTERNET PUBLICATIONS/PODCASTS

TalkNerdy: Interviewed by Cara Santamaria, with Paul Kwiatkowski (wildlife manager at Mount Auburn Cemetery): urban ecology and citizen science—additional roles a historical burying ground can play. https://www.carasantamaria.com/podcast/paul-kwaitkowski-maria-aliberti-lubertazzi

Identification of Aeshnid Exuviae (http://www.pse.uri.edu/museum/Aeshnid_ID/index.shtml)
Photography, text and direction: M. Aliberti, Production: P. Logan (no longer available

Rotary Scholars Write: "How can 'service above self' change the world?"
(http://rotaryscholars.com/featured-essay-maria-aliberti/) (no longer available)

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

M. Aliberti, S. Bradt, S. Greene, J. Haney, J. Morrissey, J. Nowak. 2003. *Photographic Key to the Freshwater Zooplankton of the Northeast* (Version 1.0). University of New Hampshire, Center for Freshwater Biology. PDF and CD-Rom Formats.

M. Chandler and M. Aliberti. 2002. *Cross-seasonal survey of aquatic insects from six fishless wetlands on Block Island. Final Report to The Nature Conservancy*.

M. Aliberti and M. Chandler. 2001. *Survey of aquatic invertebrates from Nantucket Island wetlands. Final Report to Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program Small Research Contracts Program* (2001).

M. Aliberti and M. Mello. 1999. *Status of State-listed and Tracked Invertebrates at Ponkapoag Bog, Norfolk County, Mass. 1998*. Lloyd Center for Environmental Studies (Dartmouth, MA). Report #98-4.

M. Mello, M. Aliberti, S. Galusha, K. Gerber, F. Hohn, A. Lawrence, D. Luers, R. Nagel, T. Ruehli, B. Stephenson. 1999. *Inventory of State-listed Lepidoptera and Other Insects at Mass. Military Reservation 1996-1998. Final Report to The Massachusetts Army National Guard Camp Edwards Training Site.* Lloyd Center for Environmental Studies (Dartmouth, MA). Report # 99-2.

M. Mello, M. Aliberti, S. Galusha, K. Gerber, B. Stephenson. 1999. *Survey of Francis Crane, Hyannis Ponds, and Noquochoke Wildlife Management Areas for State-listed Lepidoptera. Final Report to The MA Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program Ecological Restoration Program*, from the Lloyd Center for Environmental Studies (Dartmouth, MA). Report #99-1.

PRESENTATIONS

The RISD Nature Lab: where students of art and design can study, investigate and communicate natural science. (M. Aliberti-Lubertazzi, J. Bissonnette, B. Gagliardi, G. Rhodes) Society for Freshwater Science annual meeting, San Juan, PR. May 2025. Presented in *Special Session: Scholarship of teaching and learning in freshwater science 1.0*

Dragonfly natal habitat patterns in a series of small urban ponds. (M. Aliberti-Lubertazzi; English, Spanish versions) Society for Freshwater Science annual meeting, San Juan, PR. May 2025.

Leaf-packs and artists, redux: can we figure out what's happened to our leaf-pack sites since before COVID? (M. Aliberti-Lubertazzi) Society for Freshwater Science annual meeting, Philadelphia, PA. June 2024.

Mount Auburn Cemetery as a Keystone Green Space for Urban Ecology and Citizen Science. P. Kwiatkowski, A. Mertyl, C. Richardson, M. Aliberti-Lubertazzi, S. Rauchwerk, M. Burton, D. Morimoto, N. Weber, J. Martinez, A. Rizzuto and T. Surasinghe. 31st International Conference for Conservation Biology (Society for Conservation Biology) . Kigali, Rwanda, 2023. [poster]

A tale of dragonfly natal habitat patterns in a series of small urban ponds (M. Aliberti-Lubertazzi)

- Entomological Society of America: Eastern Branch Meeting. Providence, RI. March 2023.
- Joint Aquatic Sciences Meeting, Grand Rapids, MI. May 2022.
- Society for Freshwater Science annual meeting, remote. May 2021.

East or west, nests are best: dramatically different dragonfly habitats have surprisingly similar nestedness (neato!) (K. H. Gaines and M. Aliberti-Lubertazzi) Society for Freshwater Science annual meeting, remote. May 2021.

PRESENTATIONS, continued

Mount Auburn Cemetery as a living urban laboratory: from citizen science to urban ecology (P. Kwiatkowski, A. Rizzuto, J. Martinez, M. Aliberti-Lubertazzi, A. Mertyl, C. Richardson, N. Weber, S. Rauchwerk, D. Morimoto) Workshop at Northeast Natural History Conference, remote. April 2021.

Trash species or exploitational marvel? Emergence patterns of *Pachydiplax longipennis* on a urban-rural landscape gradient in southern New England (M. Aliberti-Lubertazzi) Society for Freshwater Science annual meeting; Salt Lake City, UT. May 2019.

A Tale of Two Urban Ponds—Seen Through the Lens of Emerging Dragonfly Populations (M. Aliberti Lubertazzi) New England Natural History Conference; Springfield, MA. April 2019.

Leaf-packs and artists: nurturing analysis and outreach (M. Aliberti Lubertazzi) Special Session: Scholarship of Teaching and Learning in Freshwater Science; Society for Freshwater Science annual meeting; Detroit, MI. May 2018. (invited speaker)

An approach to teaching urban ecology to students of the arts using leaf packs (M. Aliberti Lubertazzi) Special Session: Scholarship of Teaching and Learning in Freshwater Science; Society for Freshwater Science annual meeting; Raleigh, NC. May 2017. (invited speaker)

Emerging dragonfly distributions at lentic wetlands along environmental gradients in Rhode Island (M. Aliberti Lubertazzi) New England Natural History Conference; Springfield, MA. April 2014. (invited speaker)

The use of exuvial collection for analyzing seasonal emergence trends of *Anax junius* (M. Aliberti Lubertazzi) North American Benthological Society annual meeting; Providence, RI. May 2011.

Do dragonflies choose their neighborhoods?
Invited opening speaker, Museum Institute for Teaching Science, 2009 Southeast Region Summer Institute. New Bedford, MA. July 2009.

Patterns of emerging dragonfly communities at small wetlands on the urbanizing New England landscape (M. Aliberti Lubertazzi and H. Ginsberg) International Symposium—Urban Wildlife and the Environment; Amherst, MA. June 2009.

Measuring diversity patterns with urbanization (M. Aliberti Lubertazzi and H. Ginsberg) North American Benthological Society annual meeting; Grand Rapids, MI. May 2009.

Does anyone prefer urban wetlands? A landscape pattern for odonate conservation in New England (M. Aliberti and H. Ginsberg) North American Benthological Society annual meeting; Salt Lake City, UT. May 2008.

Urban vs. rural colonists? Teasing out the patterns of wetland use by dragonflies on our urbanizing New England landscape (M. Aliberti and H. Ginsberg) North American Benthological Society annual meeting; Columbia, SC. June 2007.

Persistence of dragonfly exuviae on vegetation and rock substrates. [poster] (M.A. Aliberti and H.S. Ginsberg)

- New England Association of Env. Biologists (NEAEB). March 2007.
- Entomological Society of America, Eastern Branch. March 2007.

PRESENTATIONS, continued

Natal Habitat Use by Dragonflies Along an Urbanization Gradient in Rhode Island (M.A. Aliberti and H.S. Ginsberg) Invited presentations at:

- Cambridge Entomological Club. December 2006. [oral presentation]
- EPA Vulnerable Wetlands Forum, November 2006. [poster]

Analysis of Natal Habitat Use by Dragonflies in Rhode Island (M. A. Aliberti) Northeast Regional Meeting of the Dragonfly Society of the Americas. June 2006.

The assemblage of dragonfly species emerging from small wetlands along an urbanization gradient (M. Aliberti and H. Ginsberg) North American Benthological Society annual meeting; Anchorage, AK. June 2006.

The assemblage of dragonfly species emerging from small wetlands along an urbanization gradient: A preliminary analysis (M. A. Aliberti) RI Natural History Survey, March 2006.

Assemblages of Dragonfly Species that Emerged from Small Wetlands Along an Urbanization Gradient Within the State of Rhode Island, from May – October 2004 (M. A. Aliberti) North American Benthological Society annual meeting; New Orleans, LA. June 2005.

Predation by Dragonfly Nymphs on Mosquito Larvae (R. Abney, M. Aliberti, R. Lebrun and P. Logan) New England Association of Environmental Biologists (NEAEB) meeting. March 2005. [poster]

Preliminary analysis of 2004 data: the assemblage of dragonfly species emerging from small wetlands along an urbanization gradient within the state of Rhode Island (M. A. Aliberti) New England Association of Environmental Biologists (NEAEB) meeting. March 2005.

Location of Anthropogenic, Urban Wetlands That Support Dragonfly Development and Adult Emergence (M. Aliberti) RI Natural History Survey. March 2004.

Queens and Beaver River Macroinvertebrate Survey (M. Aliberti) RI Natural History Survey. March 2004.

Larval odonates as potential bioindicators of pond water quality. (M. A. Aliberti)

- North American Benthological Society annual meeting, June 2001 [poster]
- The Massachusetts Bays Program: Using Biology to Signal Ecological Health Conference, Nov. 2000 [poster]
- New York State Natural History Conference VI, April 2000
- New England Association of Environmental Biologists (NEAEB), March 2000

MEMBERSHIPS

Member, **Cambridge Entomological Club**, 2001—present.

- Vice-president, 2007 - 2009
- Co-president, 2009 - 2010

MEMBERSHIPS, continued

Member, **Society for Freshwater Science** (formerly North American Benthological Society), 2001 - present.

- Graduate Resource Committee: 2005 & 2006 Live Auction Committee co-chair.
- Annual meeting local planning committee, 2011

Member, **Ecological Society of America**, 2005 - 2013.

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

Manuscript Review

- Northeastern Naturalist (guest editor)
- Journal of Insect Conservation
- Journal of Applied Ecology
- Yale University Press
- Urban Ecosystems

Invertebrate Study

Annual participant, Xerces Butterfly Count, Concord, MA; 2000—present

Invited taxonomic specialist (Odonata = dragon- and damselflies), NABS Taxonomy Fair; NABS Annual meeting, Salt Lake City, UT. May 2008

Aquatic Invertebrate Identification (small grants)

- Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (2002)
- Rhode Island Natural History Survey (2003)

Invited participant

- Walden Woods BioBlitz, Concord, MA; 2009, 2019
- Rhode Island Natural History Survey BioBlitz, 2008, 2009, 2013, 2025
- Nantucket BioBlitz, 2004

Promotion of dragonfly nymph and exuviae research. Instigator of and participant in the Millers River Environmental Center's "Nymphfest"—a hands-on workshop for nymphal dragonfly identification; Athol, MA. 2000, 2004, 2008

Graduate coursework in Zooplankton Ecology. Center for Freshwater Biology, University of New Hampshire; Durham, NH. 2002

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE, continued

Etcetera

Participant in Spatial Ecology Seminar. Dept. of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of Connecticut; Storrs, CT. 2005

URI Coastal Fellowship Program. Field and lab mentor of undergraduate interns in biological sciences. 2004 - 2006

URI Plant Science Club, Native & horticultural plant cultivation; sale promotion, marketing.

- Member, 2003 - 2008
- Club Treasurer, 2005 - 2007

Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar Orientation Program: “NorthEast Link”

- Alumni representative, 2002 – 2011
- Organization Committee member, 2006 - 2011

ADDITIONAL SKILLS

Fluent in Spanish, conversant in Italian & French

- Freelance translation of scientific papers/texts into English or Spanish
- Volunteer interpreter/translator at Massachusetts General Hospital (various periods) and elsewhere

Fiber arts: Knitting, crochet, sewing

- Crochet piece included in the 2021 RISD Faculty Exhibition and Forum, RISD Museum of Art, Providence, RI: *Stash-o-rama* (crocheted poncho)

Proficient in Microsoft Word, Excel & PowerPoint, JMP, Adobe Photoshop, AutoMontage, ArcInfo/ArcView/ArcMap Geographical Information Systems, GPS.

Certified Emergency Medical Technician (Massachusetts—1995-96): Trained in administration of CPR, MAST and Basic Life Support.