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NWRC Research Scientists: Dr. Natalie Claunch

Last Modified:



Dr. Natalie Claunch (PhD) is broadly interested in the intersections between invasion ecology, herpetology, eco-physiology, disease ecology, and wildlife damage.

This has included investigating rattlesnake stress ecology; immune and hormonal responses to novel and stressful environments that accompany introduction in curly-tailed lizards, rock agamas, Burmese pythons, and brown treesnakes; thermal ecology of panther chameleons, curly-tailed lizards, and fence lizards; and

susceptibility to *Bsal* chytrid infection in salamanders. Her research focuses on creative strategies to: 1) mitigate the impacts and forecast the spread of introduced species, and 2) mitigate the impacts of invasive wildlife on herpetofauna of conservation concern.

Research Project

Avian and Invasive Species Population

This project focuses on developing new information and methods for managing vulture populations; evaluating potential impacts on invasive species; devising control techniques to reduce or eliminate invasive species; investigating genetic and other approaches to detect and monitor invasive species; and developing methods



Current Research

- Agricultural, Ecological, Economic and Infrastructure Impacts of Invasive Green Iguanas
- Methods development for control of Peters' Rock Agama
- Ecological impacts of invasive parasites from Burmese Python

Education

- Ph.D., Interdisciplinary Ecology, Physiological Legacy of Invasive Reptiles, University of Florida School of Natural Resources and Environment
- M.S., Biological Sciences, Stress Ecology of the Pacific Rattlesnakes, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo
- B.S., Zoology, North Carolina State University

International Experience

- Co-leader of River Ecology and Conservation Workshop in Guatemala
- Collaboration with scientists in Mexico, Germany, and Australia to maintain a database on global amphibian thermal biology
- Collaborator and consultant for thermal ecology research development in Canada

Affiliations

- Courtesy Faculty, University of Florida Department of Biology
- Board Member, The Wildlife Society Invasive Species Working Group
- Governor, American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists
- Section Editor, Reptiles & Amphibians

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