

L. Stefan Ekernas

Education

Columbia University, New York, NY

M.A., Conservation Biology, September 2003 – May 2005

Columbia University, New York, NY

Post-baccalaureate student, Ecology, July 2002 – May 2003

Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH

B.A., Government with focus in International Relations, September 1997 – June 2001

Research and Work Experience

Christian Medical College, Vellore, India

Research Associate, GIS Laboratory, August 2006 – present

- Authored and conducted a survey of rural villagers' forest use and attitudes to investigate socioeconomic benefits of forests in the Kaniyambadi Block, Tamil Nadu.
- Investigated landscape-scale correlates of coliform bacteria contamination in ground water in Kaniyambadi Block.
- Administered the computerization of health information through GIS for 120,000 patients residing in KV Kappum Block, Tamil Nadu.

Baruch College, The City University of New York, New York, NY (<http://www.sewildlife.com/teaching.htm>)

Adjunct Lecturer, Department of Natural Sciences, January 2006 – July 2006 (invited back for Fall 2006 semester but declined)

- Developed curriculum and taught an advanced undergraduate course entitled Global Ecology
- Global Ecology involved 3 hours of lecture and 2 hours of lab per week, and served as the culminating experience for students completing a minor in Environmental Studies.
- Taught 3-hour weekly laboratory section of Principles of Ecology, an introductory undergraduate course.
- Received high praise both from faculty review and students.

WildMetro, New York, NY

Research Director, May 2005 – July 2006

- Directed and managed all research activities for WildMetro, including obtaining grants, designing projects, organizing logistics and staff, securing permits, and writing and editing reports.
- Received five research grants (see below), which represented the first research grants WildMetro had received.
- Conducted small mammal live-trapping study investigating the influence of urbanization on small mammal communities.
- Trained and managed field crew of 2 full-time and 20 part-time workers in trapping and handling small mammals.

Columbia University Master's Thesis Research, Kakamega Forest, Kenya

Fieldwork: May – September 2004; *Advisor*: Marina Cords

- Thesis entitled "Proximate reasons for natal dispersal in blue monkeys"
- Collected behavioral data on 16 juveniles using 40-minute focal samples on arboreal primates in a dense tropical rainforest.
- Learned to identify over 90 animals in 3 different groups by sight using natural characteristics.
- Analyzed behavioral and demographic data using several parametric and non-parametric statistical tests.

New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, NY

Volunteer Researcher, May 2003 – July 2006; *PI*: Dr. Charles Peters

- Conducted tree regeneration study on seedlings to assess the population dynamics of tree species in the NYBG forest.
- Designed and implemented a census of the NYBG forest's gray squirrel population using distance sampling to estimate the level of acorn predation and its effect on oak regeneration.

Cleary, Gottlieb, Steen & Hamilton, New York, NY

Corporate Paralegal, August 2001 – July 2002

- Performed in high-pressure corporate environment requiring constant multi-tasking over long hours.
- Organized up to 500 documents concurrently for different projects and kept them easily accessible for attorneys.

Tembe Elephant Park, Kwazulu-Natal, South Africa

Field Assistant, June – August 2000

- Assisted Ph.D. candidate Rob Morley with collecting data on the demographics of the Park's elephant population to evaluate the potential ecological gains from establishing an international Peace Park.
- Collected data on plants with Ph.D. candidate Rob Guldmond to determine elephants' impact on the Park's vegetation.

Campaign For U.N. Reform, Washington, DC

Research Associate, January – March 2000

- Co-authored the Text, Findings, and Talking Points of H.R. 938, “The McGovern-Houghton United Nations Rapid Deployment Act of 2001,” which was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives.
- Composed and edited articles for the organization’s quarterly newsletter, *The U.N. Reformer*.

Leadership & Honors

E3B Department Graduate Student Council, New York, NY
Master’s Student Representative, September 2004 – May 2005

Cathedral Community Cares Soup Kitchen, New York, NY, *Volunteer*, November 2002 – December 2004

Dartmouth Rugby Football Club, *Recruiting Chair*, May 1999 – May 2000; *Treasurer*, May 2000 – May 2001

Alpha Delta Fraternity, *Rush Chairman*, April 2000 – April 2001

Dartmouth College Sexual Abuse Peer Advisors, *Peer Advisor*, January 1998 – June 2001

Grants Received

Christian Medical College Research Grant, December 2007

- Sarkar, R., **Ekernas, L.S.**, and Muliylil, J.P. “Forest product use and attitudes towards forests among residents of Kaniyambadi Block, Tamil Nadu, India.”
- Granted Rs. 17,000 (US\$381)

Christian Medical College Research Grant, December 2007

- Sarkar, R., **Ekernas, L.S.**, Kang, G., and Muliylil, J.P. “Groundwater contamination levels in drinking water sources in Kaniyambadi Block, Tamil Nadu, India.”
- Granted Rs. 44,000 (US\$987)

Ward Pound Ridge Reservation Research Grant, June 2006

- **Ekernas, L.S.**, Mertes, K.J., and Burns, C.E. “Small mammal diversity and abundance in the New York Metropolitan Region.”
- Granted \$1500 in funds for research to be completed by WildMetro.

The Edmund Niles Huyck Preserve and Biological Research Station Research Grant, April 2006

- **Ekernas, L.S.**, Mertes, K.J., and Burns, C.E. “Small mammal diversity and abundance in the New York Metropolitan Region.”
- Granted \$1200 in funds for research to be completed by WildMetro.

National Park Service Small Grant, August 2005

- **Ekernas, L.S.**, Mertes, K.J., DeLuna, G., Bennett, C.E., and Burns, C.E. “Small mammal diversity and abundance in the salt marshes of Gateway National Recreation Area.”
- Granted \$2496 in funds for research to be completed by WildMetro.

National Park Service Small Grant, September 2005

- **Ekernas, L.S.**, Mertes, K.J., DeLuna, G., Bennett, C.E., and Burns, C.E. “Small mammal diversity and abundance in the grasslands and shrublands of Gateway National Recreation Area.”
- Granted \$2491 in funds for research to be completed by WildMetro.

Friends of the Marshlands Conservancy Research Grant, September 2005

- **Ekernas, L.S.**, Mertes, K.J., DeLuna, G., Bennett, C.E., and Burns, C.E. “Small mammal diversity and abundance in Marshlands Conservancy, Rye, NY.”
- Granted \$4346 in funds for research to be completed by WildMetro.

Publications

Ekernas, L.S. and Cords, M. 2007. “Social and Environmental Factors Influencing Natal Dispersal in Blue Monkeys (*Cercopithecus mitis stuhlmanni*).” *Animal Behaviour*. In press (accepted for publication November 2006).

Sheehan, M.J., **Ekernas, L.S.**, and Cords, M. “Sex differences in social relationships across juvenility in blue monkeys (*Cercopithecus mitis stuhlmanni*).” In prep.

Ekernas, L.S. and Mertes, K.J. 2006. “The influence of habitat type, patch size, and urbanization on small mammal communities in the New York Metropolitan Region.” Report submitted to fund-granting and other research organizations. New York: WildMetro, Inc. <http://www.wildmetro.org/WMsmallmammal.pdf>

Burns, C.E., **Ekernas, L.S.**, and Mertes, K.J. “Patch size and urbanization effects on small mammal communities in New York Metropolitan Region forests.” In prep.

Ekernas, L.S. 2005. Proximate reasons for natal dispersal in blue monkeys (*Cercopithecus mitis stuhlmanni*). MA Thesis, Columbia University E3B Dept. 94 pp.

Presentations

International Primatological Society Meeting, Uganda, June 2006

- Presentation: **Ekernas, L.S.**, and Cords, M. "Proximate reasons for natal dispersal in blue monkeys (*Cercopithecus mitis stuhlmanni*)"

Northeast Natural History Conference, Albany, NY, April 2006

- Presentation: **Ekernas, L.S.**, and Mertes, K.J. "Patch size and habitat effects on small mammals around New York City"

Long Island University Biology Department Seminar, Brooklyn, NY, April 2006

- Invited Speaker: **Ekernas, L.S.**, and Mertes, K.J. "The influence of habitat type, patch size, and urbanization on small mammal communities in the New York Metropolitan Region"

Marshlands Conservancy Community Education Program, Rye, NY, March 2006

- Presentation: **Ekernas, L.S.**, and Mertes, K.J. "Small mammals in Marshlands Conservancy and beyond"

Eco-Metropolis 2005, New York, NY, November 2005

- Invited Panelist: "Wild NYC"

Black Rock Forest Research Symposium, Cornwall, NY, May 2005

- Poster: "Small Mammal Diversity in the New York Metropolitan Region: Survey 2004"

Columbia E3B Dept. Graduate Student Colloquium, New York, NY, March 2005

- Presentation: "Proximate Reasons for Natal Dispersal in Blue Monkeys"

Skills

Computer: Experienced in ArcView GIS, Adobe Photoshop, Macromedia Dreamweaver, Wolfram Mathematica, StatsDirect, CAPTURE, MS Office, and GPS units; basic knowledge of computer hardware and assembly.

Technical: Advanced skill with 35mm SLR cameras, both film and digital (<http://www.sewildlife.com>)

Wildlife: Experienced in distance sampling and live-trapping small mammals; basic experience in track identification.

Languages: Fluent in English and Swedish (native); proficient in French; basic proficiency in spoken Tamil

Other: Certified in CPR and First Aid