

BENJAMIN MERCADO-GARCIA**Current Status**

PhD Candidate

Dept. of Biology, UPR-Rio Piedras

Email: benjamin.mercado@hotmail.com**Education**

1999-2004 BS Microbiology (UPR-Arecibo)

2012-present PhD Biology (UPR-Rio Piedras)

Current Research Interest: My research has focused in fungi growing and degrading cellulose and proteins in anaerobic conditions. We are isolating fungi directly from rotten wood incubated in anaerobic conditions and comparing secretomes collected in both aerobic and anaerobic conditions using proteins or cellulose as carbon source.

Research Experience

2012-present Research Assistant, (mentor, Dr. Paul Bayman)

2009-2011 Research and development APP Pharma (Manager Dr. Michael Awe)

2000-2004 Undergraduated research, (mentor, Dra. Maiella Ramos)

Honors and Awards

1999 Nuevo Día Educador Award

2001 Puerto Rico- Louis Stoke alliance for Minority Participations Fellowship

2002 Puerto Rico- Louis Stoke alliance for Minority Participations Fellowship

2003 Puerto Rico- Louis Stoke alliance for Minority Participations Fellowship

Presentations at Local Meetings

Mercado-Garcia., Roman, L., Ramos, M. Tolerance Studies with heavy metals and growth curve of *Bacillus cereus* and *Paenibacillus alvei* isolated from acuatic plant *Eichhornia crassipes*. 22th PRISM/JTM, UPR Humacao P.R., Apr-2002.

Presentations at National Meetings

Mercado-Garcia., Lopez, I., Toranzos, G. Escherichia coli diversity in the human gut and this genus as Tetracycline resistance reservoir. American Society of Microbiology, Colarado, USA, Apr-2013.

Mercado-Garcia., Romero, C., Bayman, P. Cellulose degradation by filamentous fungi in anaerobic environment. Experimental Biology, Illinois, USA, Apr-2017.