

TROPILUNCH

NATIVE PREDATOR INVASIVE PREY INTERACTIONS: WHAT WE KNOW AND WHAT WE ARE LOOKING TO KNOW. INSIGHTS FROM OTTER POOP.

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Lab Manager at Dr. Romagosa Lab, WEC, University of Florida

TUESDAY, APRIL 17

12:45 – 1:45

GRINTER 376

SUMMARY

As a result of human activities, some species have expanded their distribution into areas that were historically difficult or impossible to reach by natural dispersal. Such species may become invasive if they successfully establish reproductive populations and may represent a threat to native species. Predation on invasive species by native species can affect trophic interactions with other prey species, resulting in a cascading restructuring of the trophic web. I examine effects of an invasive fish (armored catfish: *Pterygoplichtys* sp.) on the dietary niche breadth and trophic level of a native piscivorous predator (Neotropical river otter: *Lontra longicaudis*) in the Usumacinta basin in northern Guatemala evaluating spatial and temporal differences. The future lines of research will be presented.

BIO

Antonio Diego Alejandro Juárez-Sánchez was born in Guatemala City and grew up in a small town in San Juan Sacatepequez on his parent's farm. He obtained his biology

Tropilunch is a weekly seminar run by graduate students from the Tropical Conservation and Development (TCD) Program. It provides a forum for a range of discussions and presentations related to TCD work and research. Special guests, visiting scholars and practitioners also participate. It happens every Tuesday @t 12:45 – 1:45 p.m. in Grinter 376. Tropilunch presentations are recorded and posted weekly on TCD's [YouTube Channel](#).

*The University of Florida Tropical Conservation and Development Program (TCD), the
TCD Student Group & the Center for Latin American Studies present*

bachelor's degree from the University of San Carlos de Guatemala (USAC). He has worked as a wildlife researcher for Wildlife Conservation Society-Guatemala, the General Directorate of Research (DIGI) in USAC, and the National Organization for Conservation and the Environment (ONCA for its initials in Spanish). He has also won grants from the Guatemalan National Council on Science and Technology (CONCYT, for its initials in Spanish), and the Guatemalan National Fund for Nature Conservancy (FONACON, for its initials in Spanish). He is a founding member of the Guatemalan Mastozoological Association where he has held the position of treasurer. He has been a member of the environmental commission of CONCYT, where he served as president in 2012. In 2014 he was the director of the biological department of Tikal National Park. In 2014, he also received a Fulbright scholarship to study for his master's degree in wildlife ecology and conservation at the University of Florida (UF). As a student in UF he was elected president of the Latin Hispanic Graduate Student Association (LOGRAS) to serve during the academic year of 2015-2016. After finishing his MS from WEC at UF he began to work with Dr. Romagosa as a project manager working with diet of invasive pythons in south Florida.

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