

F26.44 Blending tradition with science: A biocultural approach to studying mammals in the mountains of Oaxaca, Mexico

Overview

This research project focuses on combining the outsider's perspective (scientific knowledge) with the local's perspective (Indigenous traditional ecological knowledge) to study and describe mammals. Based on previous fieldwork data collected, this project will focus on studying and analyzing the scientific approach to describe mammals, which will contribute to the creation of an all-audience and educational guide to the local mammals of a specific region of the mountains of Oaxaca, Mexico. The mammal's guide will also serve as an example to demonstrate how science and culture can supplement each other to offer a holistic understanding of the study and description of the local environment, in this particular case, focusing on mammals.

What the student will DO and LEARN

With this internship, students will learn how to engage in research that focuses on combining scientific, and local and Indigenous perspectives to produce a holistic representation of knowledge regarding mammals. Students will learn how to search, document, analyze, and organize data from bibliographic searches and create annotated bibliographies, and databases. They will engage in a creative process of designing a book oriented to all audiences that is presented with an educational focus. Students will be trained in writing and translating academic/scientific language to all-audience-friendly language, as well as learning the process of developing an applied research project combining new data (from the bibliography) with previously collected data from the field.

Additional benefits

Students will benefit from becoming members of the EFECT research lab, participating in meetings, as well as being part of the bi-weekly lab-student-led discussions where we take turns to discuss the different current projects at the lab and obtain feedback to incorporate in the progress of each project. Students will learn a collaborative process of developing research on a team and learn how to lead a discussion with students from different stages in their careers, from undergraduates to graduates.

Additional qualifications

Interests in social science and environmental sciences, at least a basic level in Spanish, is desirable

Time commitment

6 hrs/week for 30 weeks