

BENJAMIN GILBERT

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CURRENT POSITION

Postdoctoral researcher at the University of California, Santa Barbara

EDUCATION

University of British Columbia PhD in Botany	2008
McGill University MSc in Biology, Dean's honours list	2003
University of British Columbia BSc in forestry, specialisation in ecology	2001

AWARDS

- National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis (NCEAS) Postdoctoral Fellowship (Declined)
- NSERC Postdoctoral Fellowship
- UBC Li Tze Fong fellowship
- Canon National Parks Science Scholars Program, judged by the AAAS
- Rowe Award for best student ecology paper, Canadian Botanical Association
- UBC Graduate Fellowship award
- NSERC PGSB scholarship
- Northern Scientific Training Program
- University of British Columbia, McGill University entrance scholarships
- NSERC PGSA scholarship
- McGill University, Dean's honour list (MSc)
- Forest Science prize for best graduating thesis, UBC Faculty of Forestry
- Forest Science prize for highest marks in graduating class
- NSERC undergraduate award and other undergraduate scholarships

PUBLICATIONS

- Gilbert, B.**, R. Turkington and D.S. Srivastava. In press. Dominant species and diversity: linking relative abundance to controls of species establishment. *American Naturalist*.
- MacDougall, A.S, **B. Gilbert** and J. M. Levine. 2009. Plant invasions and the niche. *Journal of Ecology* 97:609-615.
- Srivastava, D.S., M.K. Trzcinski, B.A. Richardson and **B. Gilbert**. 2008. Why are predators more sensitive to habitat size than their prey? Insights from bromeliad-insect food webs. *American Naturalist* 172: 761-771
- Gilbert, B.**, D.S. Srivastava and K.R. Kirby. 2008. Niche partitioning at multiple scales facilitates coexistence among mosquito larvae. *Oikos* 117: 944-950.
- Ngai*, J.T., K.R. Kirby*, **B. Gilbert***, B.M. Starzomski*, A.J.D. Pelletier, J.C.R. Conner. 2008. The impact of land-use change on larval insect communities: testing the role of habitat elements in conservation. *Ecoscience* 15:160-168
* **These authors contributed equally.**
- Gilbert***, **B.**, W.F. Laurance*, E.G. Leigh*, and H.E.M. Nascimento. 2006. Can neutral theory predict changes in Amazonian forest fragments? *The American Naturalist* 168: 304-317.
* **These authors contributed equally.**
- Gilbert, B.**, S.J. Wright, H.C. Muller-Landau, K. Kitajima and A. Hernández. 2006. Life history trade-offs in tropical trees and lianas. *Ecology* 87:1281-1288.
- Gilbert, B.**, and M.J. Lechowicz. 2005. Invasibility and abiotic gradients: the positive correlation between native and exotic plant diversity. *Ecology* 86: 1848-1855.
- Karst*, J., **B. Gilbert*** and M.J. Lechowicz. 2005. Assembling fern communities: the roles of chance and environmental determinism at local and intermediate spatial scales. *Ecology* 86: 2473-2486.
* **These authors contributed equally.**
- Weber, A., J. Karst, **B. Gilbert** and J.P. Kimmins. 2005. *Thuja plicata* exclusion in ectomycorrhiza-dominated forests: testing the role of inoculum potential of arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi. *Oecologia* 143:148-156.
- Gilbert, B.**, and M.J. Lechowicz. 2004. Neutrality, niches, and dispersal in a temperate forest understory. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, USA* 101: 7651-7656.
Winner of the 2004 Rowe Award for the best ecology paper published by a student, Canadian Botanical Association.

Weber, A., **B. Gilbert**, J.P. Kimmins and C.E. Prescott. 2003. Factors limiting the early survivorship of western Redcedar (*Thuja plicata*) on northern Vancouver Island, British Columbia. *Canadian Journal of Forest Research* 33: 854-861.

RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE

University of California, Santa Barbara Postdoctoral Researcher	October 2008 – Present
University of British Columbia Teaching assistant , 4 th year course in ecological methodology Received 4.8/5 average in student evaluations	2007
Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute Research Intern , produced two peer-reviewed papers	2003
University of British Columbia Research assistant , produced two peer-reviewed papers	2000-2001
University of British Columbia Teaching assistant , 2 nd year course in ecology	1999
JS Throver and Associates Field researcher in ecological site classification	1999

PEER REVIEW

I have provided reviews for the following journals:

American Naturalist, Applied Vegetation Science, Biological Conservation, Biological Invasions, Ecological Research, Ecology, Ecology Letters, Functional Ecology, Journal of Animal Ecology, Journal of Applied Ecology, Journal of Biogeography, Journal of Ecology, Journal of Vegetation Science, Oecologia, Oikos, Plant Ecology, Theoretical Population Biology, Science

LANGUAGES

English – native language

French – speak with proficiency, read/write with competence

Spanish – speak with competence

POPULAR MEDIA

- **Research interviews with CBC, Radio Canada and Yukon News (2005/2006)**

SELECT PRESENTATIONS

- **Gilbert, B.** Dominance and Diversity: Predicting the causes and consequences of species distributions. October 2008. *Invited presentation at the National Centre for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis (NCEAS)*, Santa Barbara, California.
- **Gilbert, B.** Plant community dynamics when competitors are friendly and niches don't matter: lessons from Kluane, Yukon. February 2008. *UBC Botany Seminar Series*.
- **Gilbert, B., R. Turkington, D.S. Srivastava.** The importance of species diversity and dominance in limiting and facilitating invasions. August 2007. *Annual Meeting, Ecological Society of America*.
- Srivastava, D.S., B. Richardson, M.K. Trzcinski, **B. Gilbert.** Why does habitat size affect predators more than prey? Tests of three mechanisms using bromeliad insects. August 2007. *Annual Meeting, Ecological Society of America*.
- Karst, J, **B. Gilbert** and M.J. Lechowicz. Structuring fern communities at local and mesoscales: the roles of environmental determinism and dispersal. May 2006. *The Peter Yodzis Colloquium in Fundamental Ecology. Guelph University*.
- **Gilbert, B., S.J. Wright, K. Kitajima, H.C. Muller-Landau, A. Hernandez.** The consistency and ecological importance of life history trade-offs in tropical trees and lianas. August 2004. *Annual Meeting, Ecological Society of America*.
- Weber, A., J. Karst, **B. Gilbert**, J.P. Kimmins. *Thuja plicata* exclusion in ectomycorrhiza-dominated forests: testing the role of inoculum potential of arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi. August 2004. *Annual Meeting, Ecological Society of America*.
- Lechowicz, M.J., **B. Gilbert**, A. Karst, J. Karst. The functional basis of fern diversity in deciduous forests. July 2004. *Invited presentation at The Biodiversity of Forests Under Changing Environment conference in Kyoto*.
- **Gilbert, B.** Multivariate statistics: What they are, what they can do for me, and why I should care... March 2004. *UBC Plant Ecology Talk Sessions*.
- **Gilbert, B.,** and M.J. Lechowicz. The relative importance of spatial and environmental processes in structuring diversity on a forested landscape. August 2003. *Annual Meeting, Ecological Society of America*.
- **Gilbert, B.,** and M.J. Lechowicz. Dispersal limitation and niche structuring of an old-growth forest: the importance to plant taxonomic and functional groups. April 2003. *McGill graduate student symposium in Ecology, Evolution, Behaviour and Conservation*.
- **Gilbert, B.,** and M.J. Lechowicz. The basis for plant diversity in an old growth forest (Poster). March, 2003. *Annual Meeting, Groupe de Recherche en Ecologie Forestière Interuniversitaire (GREFI)*.
- **Gilbert, B.,** A. Weber and J.P. Kimmins. Factors affecting ecosystem change on Vancouver Island. May, 2002. *McGill graduate student symposium in Ecology, Evolution, Behaviour and Conservation*.
- **Gilbert, B.,** A. Weber and J.P. Kimmins. Successional trends on Vancouver Island. February, 2002. *Annual Meeting, Groupe de Recherche en Ecologie Forestière Interuniversitaire (GREFI)*.