NEVILLE TARAPOREVALA

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622 Benvenue Ave.
Los Altos, CA 94024

EDUCATION

BS Ecology, Behavior, and Evolution — June 2021
With Distinction, Minored in Cognitive Science
University of California, San Diego
Major GPA: 3.97, Overall GPA: 3.75
GRE Scores: Quantitative: 168, Verbal: 159

HONORS AND AWARDS

Provost Honors — Winter 2018, Fall 2018 – Fall 2020
Finalist for Mary Rice Award Talk, SICB Annual Conference — Jan 2022

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Cooperative Wildlife Research Lab, Southern Illinois University — Feb 2022 – present
Field Technician, PI: Dr. Clay Nielsen

- Assisted 2 graduate students in the field conducting their thesis/dissertation research evaluating the impact of raccoon removal on Blanding's turtle populations and assessing the presence and distribution of zoonotic pathogens and parasites in raccoons of northern Illinois
- Deployed and maintained over 100 camera traps at 6 different sites across northern Illinois
- Examined camera trap data for presence of raccoons to assist with occupancy modeling
- Performed necropsies on 100 raccoons which involved taking measurements, collecting and preserving samples of internal organs, and examining intestinal tracts for presence of parasitic helminths

Comparative Cognition Lab, UCSD — June 2021 – Jan 2022
Research Assistant, PI: Dr. Federico Rossano

- Used Excel and R to code and analyze quantified social behaviors in camera trap footage and other video of Japanese macaques, chimpanzees, and domesticated dogs

Scripps Institution of Oceanography, UCSD — Dec 2018 – Aug 2021
Animal Care Assistant, PI: Dr. Deirdre Lyons

- Planned and conducted months-long at-home experiments examining development of gonads and mating in the nudibranch *Berghia stephanieae* by growing dozens of isolated individuals and controlling mating
- Used microscopy and histology to determine when male and female reproductive organs become functional and how egg mass quality changes over time
- Developed different techniques for the stenophagous *B. stephanieae* to consume a novel prey species, *Nematostella vectensis*
- Devised, implemented, and updated a culturing system for the nudibranch *Berghia stephanieae* to maintain a sustainable population of nudibranchs for lab experiments
- Monitored thousands of individuals under a dissecting microscope to assess the health at the organismal and population levels
- Presented research updates several times in lab meetings

PUBLICATIONS IN PREPARATION

Taraporevala, NF, MP Lesoway, JA Goodheart, and DC Lyons. "Precocious sperm transfer in the simultaneously hermaphroditic nudibranch *Berghia stephanieae*," *in prep*

Masterson, P, H Johnston, **NF Taraporevala**, JA Goodheart, G Batzel, C Whitesel, V Barone, and DC Lyons. "Scalable Spiralian: Establishing the Nudibranch *Berghia stephanieae* (Valdés, 2005) as a new model for unwinding molluscan development," *in prep*

PRESENTATIONS

Talk, "The nudibranch *Berghia stephanieae* exchanges sperm weeks before egg laying, and retains sperm for months," Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology Annual Meeting, January 2022, Phoenix, AZ.

Poster, "Using laboratory culture of the nudibranch Berghia stephanieae to study reproductive development and feeding behavior" Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology Annual Meeting, January 2021, Online.

SKILLS

- Data entry and analysis using R and Excel
- Deploying and maintaining wildlife cameras in various landscapes
- Obtaining and preserving tissue samples by performing necropsies on raccoon carcasses
- Experience receiving feedback/constructive criticism
- Ability to work independently and in a team
- Public speaking
- Extensive outdoor leadership experience through years of scouting and Outback Adventures