

# Tosha L. Comendant

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## EDUCATION

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| <b>University of California, Santa Cruz, Ph.D.</b><br>Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology,<br>University of California, Santa Cruz, CA | <b>Ecology &amp; Evolution</b> | <b>1997-2002</b> |
| <b>University of California, Berkeley, B.A.</b><br>Department of Integrative Biology<br>University of California, Berkeley, CA                    | <b>Integrative Biology</b>     | <b>1990-1995</b> |

## PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

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| <b><u>Senior Conservation Scientist</u></b><br>Team lead for Data Basin, a web-based tool that provides access to data and tools to integrate complex ecological, political, and economic information. Management of system design, product development, outreach, partnership development, and strategic planning.   | <b>Conservation Biology Institute</b>                   | <b>2008-present</b> |
| <b><u>Conservation Scientist &amp; Editor</u></b><br>Center for Global Trends, Conservation Strategies Division, California<br>Science analyst focused on elucidating, synthesizing, and framing emerging conservation issues. Editor of <i>The Science Chronicles</i> , a monthly publication for the science-minded conservationist.  | <b>The Nature Conservancy</b>                           | <b>2007</b>         |
| <b><u>Conservation Scientist</u></b><br>Science Office, Arlington, Virginia<br>Primary node of information sharing between the Science Office and other functional areas in TNC, such as Regional Science, Human Resources, Technology and Information Systems, marketing, and other conservation non-profit organizations. Current research focuses on the conversion of scientific knowledge into conservation practice and the improvement of monitoring and evaluation of conservation action in an evidence-based framework. | <b>The Nature Conservancy</b>                           | <b>2004-2007</b>    |
| <b><u>Presidential Postdoctoral Fellow</u></b><br>UC Santa Cruz, California<br>Island restoration: life history and demographics of lizards in response to eradication of black rats, <i>Rattus rattus</i> .  | <b>University of California Office of the President</b> | <b>2002-2003</b>    |
| <b><u>Academic Instructor</u></b><br>UC Santa Cruz, California<br>Developed curricula and taught summer school courses for high achieving California high school students.  | <b>CA Math &amp; Science School (COSMOS)</b>            | <b>2000-2001</b>    |
| <b><u>Behavioral Ecology Lecturer</u></b><br>UC Santa Cruz, California<br>Developed curricula and taught summer session for UC Santa Cruz undergraduate course in behavioral ecology  | <b>University of California, Santa Cruz</b>             | <b>2000</b>         |
| <b><u>Graduate Teaching &amp; Research Assistant</u></b><br>UC Santa Cruz, California<br>Teaching assistant for Behavioral Ecology, Evolution, and Introduction to Ecology and Evolution. Research assistant for field semesters investigating life-history evolution.  | <b>University of California, Santa Cruz</b>             | <b>1997-2000</b>    |
| <b><u>Undergraduate Mentor</u></b><br>UC Santa Cruz, California   | <b>Alliance for Minority Participation</b>              | <b>1999-2001</b>    |

Mentored undergraduate students in field and laboratory research.

## HONORS AND AWARDS

- CA Mediterranean Research Learning Grant, National Park Service (2004, 2006)
- University of California Presidential Postdoctoral Fellowship (2002-2003)
- GAANN Fellowship and Research Funding (2000-2001)
- Gaines Memorial Research Award (2000)
- UC Santa Cruz Biology Department Independent Study Grant (1998)
- All Decade UC Berkeley and All Pac-10 Academic Team (1993)
- UC Berkeley Kraft Scholarship (GPA top 5% freshman UCB; 1990)

## VOLUNTEER AND PUBLIC SERVICE

- Board member of Putah Creek Watershed Council, Napa County.
- Reading Connection, Arlington VA. Reading books to children in temporary shelters in Washington, DC.
- Virginia Native Plant Society. Invasive species removal.

## PUBLICATIONS

### Doctoral Dissertation

University of California, Santa Cruz. Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology 1997-2002.

Effects of Social Competition on Endocrine Function and Life-history Evolution in Female Morphs of the Side-blotched Lizard, *Uta Stansburiana*.

### Journal Articles

- Kiesecker, J. M., Amaon, G., Comendant, T., Grandmason, T., Gray, E., Hall, C., Hilsenbeck, R., Kareiva, P., Lozier, L., Naehu, P., Rissman, A., Shaw, M. R., Zankel, M. 2007. Conservation Easements in Context: A quantitative analysis of their use by The Nature Conservancy. *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment*. 5(3): 125–130
- Bleay, C., Comendant, T., and Sinervo, B. 2007. An experimental test of frequency-dependent selection on male mating strategy in the field. *Proceedings of the Royal Academy of Science*. 274 (1621), 2019–2025.
- Rissman, A. R., Lozier, L., Comendant, T., Kareiva, P., Kiesecker, J. M., Shaw, R. M. and Merenlender, A.M. 2007. Biodiversity protection and private use on conservation easements. *Conservation Biology*. 21 (3); 709-718.
- Sinervo, B., Calsbeek R., Comendant, T., Both, C., Adamopoulous, C., and Clobert, J. 2006. Genetic and maternal determinants of effective dispersal: The effects of sire genotype and size at birth in side-blotched lizards. 2006. *American Naturalist*. 168: 88-99.
- Comendant, T., B. Sinervo, E., Svensson, J. Wingfield. Social competition, corticosterone and survival in female lizard morphs. 2003. *Journal of Evolutionary Biology*. 16: 948-955.
- Donlan, C. J and Comendant, T. 2003. Getting rid of rats. E! *The Environmental Magazine*. September/October.
- Svensson, E., B. Sinervo, and Comendant, T. 2002. Mechanistic and experimental analysis of condition and reproduction in a polymorphic lizard. *Journal of Evolutionary Biology* 15, 1034-1047.
- Svensson, E., B. Sinervo, and Comendant, T. 2001. Condition, genotype-by-environment interaction and correlational selection in lizard life-history morphs. *Evolution* 55 (10), 2053-2069.
- Svensson, E., B. Sinervo, and Comendant, T. 2001. Density dependent competition and selection on immune function in genetic lizard morphs. *Proceeding of the National Academy of Science* 98: 12561-12565.
- Sinervo, B. E. Svensson, and Comendant, T. 2000. Oscillations in density-dependent selection and a cyclical offspring quantity and quality game. *Nature*. 406:985-988

### Reports:

- J. Wiens, T. Comendant, G. Bell, M. Cornett, J. Ward, and F. James. *Science Capacity Assessment South Central Division of The Nature Conservancy*. March 2004.

- M. Sanjayan, T. Comendant, M. Bryer, J. Herkert, and F. Lowenstein. *Science Capacity Report for Southeast Region*. May 2004.
- J. Wiens and T. Comendant. *Climate Change Workshop Outcomes and Recommendations*. December 2004.
- P. Kareiva, T. Comendant, H. Tallis. *Asia-Pacific Science Capacity Report*. November 2004
- J. Wiens and T. Comendant. *Overview of Science Capacity in the Central U.S. Region of The Nature Conservancy*. March 2005.
- J. Wiens, T. Comendant, P. Kareiva, and M. Sanjayan. *Science Capacity Assessments: An Overview*. May 2005.
- J. Wiens and T. Comendant. *Conservation Information Needs and Priorities in The Nature Conservancy: Are We Managing our Information Assets Effectively?* December 2005.

## KEY PRESENTATIONS

- Plenary for The Nature Conservancy Board of Directors. *Sustainable Harvest: Sustainable forestry & working forests: TNC project goals, methods, & metrics*. January 2008.
- *Collaboration tools enable the sharing of conservation management information, best practices, and the connection of scientific research with field-based practice*. Invited presentation to be given at the Ecological Society Annual Meeting this summer, August 2007. San Jose, CA.
- *Institutionalizing Evidence-based Conservation*. Invited presentation at the Society for Conservation Biology, European Regional Meeting. Edgar, Hungary. August, 2006.
- *Towards Evidence-based Practice in Biodiversity Conservation*. Invited presentation at the National Science Foundation, Arlington, VA. May 2006.
- *Science Capacity in The Nature Conservancy*. Society for Conservation Biology Annual Meeting, Brasilia, Brazil. July 2005
- *Lost in Translation: Building Conservation Research Partnerships Across the Academic - Non-profit divide*. Invited presentation at San Jose State University. May 2005.
- *Fundamentals of Conservation Science*. Training session for Technology and Information Systems staff at learning conference. November 2006.