

Part A. PERSONAL INFORMATION

CV date

21/06/2023

First name	Zaida		
Family name	Ortega Diago		
Gender (*)	Female	Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy)	
Social Security, Passport, ID number			
e-mail		URL Web https://www.zaidaortega.com/	
Open Researcher and Contributor ID (ORCID) (*)	0000-0002-8167-1652		

A.1. Current position

Position	Senior lecturer (Profesora Titular)		
Initial date	06/05/2024		
Institution	University of León		
Department/Centre	Biodiversity and Environmental Management	Faculty of Biology	
Country	Spain	Phone number	+34 622028559
Keywords	Movement ecology; thermal biology; behavioural ecology; zoology		

A.2. Previous positions (research activity interruptions)

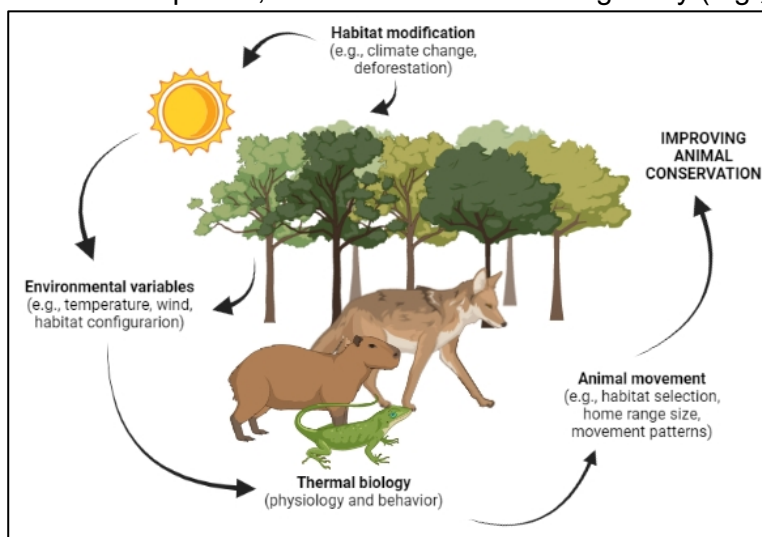
Period	Position/Institution/Country/Cause of the interruption
2023-2024	Lectures / University of León / Spain
2021-2023	Postdoctoral researcher / University of Granada / Spain
2017-2021	Postdoctoral researcher / UFMS / Brazil
2015-2017	Two research visits / Museum für Naturkunde / Germany

A.3. Education

PhD, Graduate Degree	University/Country	Year
PhD Animal Ecology	University of Salamanca / Spain	2015
MSc Statistics	University of Salamanca / Spain	2012
MSc Biodiversity	University of Salamanca / Spain	2007
Licentiate (5 years) in Biology	University of Salamanca / Spain	2005

Part B. CV SUMMARY (max. 5000 characters, including spaces)

1. Main scientific-technical achievements: Dr. Ortega has contributed to study thermal ecology, antipredator behavior, and movement ecology of terrestrial vertebrates. On **thermal ecology**, she unveiled thermoregulation patterns of ten lacertid lizard species, the role of habitat heterogeneity (e.g., Ortega et al. 2016b, Ortega et al. 2016c), the impacts of climate change (e.g., Ortega et al. 2016d) and adaptations to mitigate them (e.g., Ortega et al. 2016e). She implemented a novel meta-analytical tool (Ortega et al. 2016a) to find the general patterns of lacertid thermoregulation (Ortega & Martín-Vallejo 2019). On **antipredator behavior**, she studied the responses of eight lizard species to chemical cues of predatory snakes, advancing important ideas, such as how naïve species adapt to novel predators (e.g., Ortega et al. 2017). On **movement ecology**, she studied the role of environmental factors on movement (e.g., Ortega et al. 2019; Giroux et al. 2021;



Graphical summary of Dr. Ortega's research

Serra-Medeiros et al. 2021). In short, Dr. Ortega behavioral ecology knowledge of >30 Mediterranean and Neotropical vertebrates, contributing to theory on the effect of extrinsic factors on thermoregulation, advancing study methods and linking thermal biology and movement ecology to enhance animal conservation under upcoming change scenarios. This was developed through 11 research projects in collaboration with national and international researchers. She communicated results through scientific articles and congresses, and a continuous dissemination effort (**see details in the respective sections**). This work led her to consolidate technical skills to lead research and advance methods in animal behavior, thermal biology, and movement ecology, and further international collaborations, as the [AUIP's Latin-American Research Network of Biodiversity Conservation and Climate Change](#) and the international leadership program [Homeward Bound](#).

2. Contribution to society: She contributed through science (sections C.1-C.3), knowledge transfer (section C.4), teaching (see below) and activism. Among innovation activities, she organized three [Academic Weeks](#) at UFMS –where PhD students created specialized courses for the general public–, [Econexão](#), a virtual event to connect students and researchers during the pandemic (see more at section C.4) at the UFMS (Brazil) and two innovation projects to advance teaching methods in spatial ecology and zoology at the University of Granada (Spain).

3. Training of young investigators: Dr. Ortega has taught **>1,700 hours** on **zoology, ethology, ecology and conservation** at graduate and postgraduate programs of Spain and Brazil, accredited by [ANECA](#) (ref. 2021-004763). At UFMS, she co-supervised the **PhD** of P. Shibuya (2016-2020) and A. Giroux (2019-2023). From 2017 to 2021, she co-supervised **four MSc theses** at UFMS (A. Giroux, K. Martins, J. Vasconcelos and R. Thaler). At UGR, she supervised **two MSc theses** (A. Pintor and J. Crespo) and **three BSc theses** (J. Arca, A. Pérez and J. Gómiz). At the University of León, she is the head of the LABECO (Laboratory of Animal Behavior and Conservation), with one PhD student (Rafaela Thaler), one MSc student (Jaume Bruguera) and four undergrad students developing their dissertations at the moment. She focuses on maximizing the development of technical and soft skills of young investigators, **training them to thrive doing and communicating science and collaborating with other scientists**. She was a **mentor** in [STG](#) (2020-2021) and provided many conferences to train young girls in science (section C.4 and [www.zaidaortega.com](#)). She participated in the **organization of six scientific congresses**: [ConserBio](#), [II Ecomov](#), [Agroecol 2018](#), [VIII CBH](#) and [International Symposium on Islands and Evolution](#). She **reviewed >80 manuscripts**, obtaining the [Publons](#) award. She participated in the **evaluation committee of the national programs** of Argentina (2016, 2017, 2021) and Croatia (2019) and the **evaluation board of four PhD, seven MSc, and 10 BSc theses**.

4. Other merits: Dr. Ortega won a 4-year grant from the government of Spain to study her BSc and a 1-month competitive grant to study English in South Africa. Then she obtained a competitive 4-year grant (USAL) to conduct her MSc and her PhD. In 2016, she won a competitive EU *Synthesys* grant for a 1-month research stay at the Museum für Naturkunde (Germany). In 2017 she won a competitive 5-year “PNPD/Capes” grant from the government of Brazil to work at UFMS. In 2018 she won a national competitive postdoctoral grant *Juan de la Cierva*, which she rejected to continue her thriving work at UFMS. After four years in Brazil, she decided to return to Spain. In 2021 she returned to Spain with a 3-year “talent attraction” contract (regional government – *Junta de Andalucía*) to work at UGR. In July 2023 she won a position as Lecturer at the University of León, where she promoted to Senior Lecturer in 2024.

Part C. RELEVANT MERITS (sorted by typology)

C.1. Publications: Dr. Ortega has published **>45 scientific articles**, including three book chapters and peer-reviewed research papers at prestigious journals in Zoology and Ecology. She has been cited 547 times, with an h-index of 14 (Google Scholar). Her RG research interest score is 680.8 and is in the 89 RG percentile.

Giroux A, **Ortega Z**, Attias N, Desbiez A, Valle D, Oliveira-Santos, LGR (2023) Activity modulation .and selection for forests help giant anteaters to cope with temperature changes. *Anim. Behav.* (in press).

Rivas ML, Rodriguez-Caballero E, Barreu B, Carpio A, Esteban N, Fuentes M, Robinson K, Aranza J, León Y, **Ortega Z** (2023) Uncertain future for global sea turtle populations in face of sea level rise. *Sci. Rep.* 13, 5277. DOI: 10.1038/s41598-023-31467-1

Arca-Rubio J, Moreno-Rueda G, **Ortega Z** (2023) The distribution of vertebrate roadkill varies by season,

- surrounding environment and animal class. *European J. Wildlife Res.* 69, 42. DOI: 10.1007/s10344-023-01669-z.
- Ortega Z**, Ganci C, Rivas ML. Thermoregulation and hydric balance in amphibians. In: *Evolutionary Ecology of Amphibians* (Moreno-Rueda G, Comas M, Eds.), CRC Press. ISBN: 978-1-003-09331-2
- Thaler R*, **Ortega Z***, Ferreira VL (2022) Extrinsic traits consistently drive microhabitat decisions of an arboreal snake, independently of sex and personality. *Behav. Proc.*: 104649 (*co-first authors).
- Giroux A, **Ortega Z**, Bertassoni A, ... Oliveira-Santos LGR (2021) The role of environmental temperature on the movement ecology of a physiologically imperfect homeotherm. *Integr. Zool.*: 1-12
- Serra-Medeiros S*, **Ortega Z***, Antunes P, Miraglia HH, Oliveira-Santos LGR (2021) Space use and activity of capybaras in an urban area. *J. Mammal.* 021: gyab005
- Ortega Z**, Martín-Vallejo J (2019) Main factors affecting the thermoregulation of lacertid lizards. *Integr. Zool.* 14: 293-305.
- Ortega Z**, Mencía A*, Pérez-Mellado V (2017) Rapid acquisition of antipredatory responses to new predators by an insular lizard. *Behav Ecol Sociobiol* 71: 1
- Ortega Z**, Martín-Vallejo J, Mencía A, Galindo-Villardón MP, Pérez-Mellado V (2016a) Introducing meta-partition, a useful methodology to explore factors that influence ecological effect sizes. *PLoS ONE* 11: e0158624
- Ortega Z**, Mencía A, Pérez-Mellado V (2016b) Wind constraints on the thermoregulation of high mountain lizards. *Int. J. Biometeorol.* 61, 565-573.
- Ortega Z**, Mencía A, Pérez-Mellado V (2016c) Adaptive seasonal shifts in the thermal preferences of the lizard *Iberolacerta galani* (Squamata, Lacertidae). *J. Therm. Biol.* 62: 1-6.
- Ortega Z**, Mencía A, Pérez-Mellado V (2016d) Are becoming mountain habitats more suitable for thermoregulation of generalist than cold-adapted lizards? *PeerJ* 4: e2085.
- Ortega Z**, Mencía A, Pérez-Mellado V (2016e) Behavioral buffering of global warming in a cold-adapted lizard. *Ecol. Evol.* 6: 4582-4590.

C.2. Congresses: Dr. Ortega has contributed to **39 scientific communications** (15 invited talks, 18 oral presentations, 7 posters) at 20 international and 19 national events. She was the main author of 29 of these presentations (79%).

- Ortega Z**, Crespo-Vallés J, Giroux A, Attias N, Börger L, Oliveira-Santos LGR (2023) Temperature effects on mammals' daily movement: the case of urban capybaras. 13th International Mammalogical Congress, Anchorage, Alaska, (USA). Conference. [\[Oral presentation; international\]](#)
- Ortega Z**, Giroux A, Attias N, Oliveira-Santos LGR (2022) Translating broad movement modes to daily movement strategies. British Ecological Society Movement Ecology SIG meeting 2022, Glasgow (UK). Conference. [\[Oral presentation; international\]](#)
- Ortega Z** (2019) Integrating ecophysiology and animal movement into science and acting. Mini-Symposium Animal Ecology-Herpetology. BOKU, Vienna, Austria. [\[Invited talk; international\]](#)
- Ortega Z**, Oliveira-Santos LGR (2021) Moonlight, temperature and human effects on daily migration patterns of urban capybara. XV National Congress of the Spanish Association of Terrestrial Ecology, Plasencia, Spain. [\[Oral presentation; national\]](#)
- Ortega Z**, Oliveira-Santos LGR (2021) Habitat selection for animal conservation in a climate change scenario. V International Congress of Biodiversity and Conservation, Málaga, Spain. [\[Oral presentation; international\]](#)
- Ortega Z**, Mencía A, Martins K, Soares P, Ferreira VF, Oliveira-Santos LG (2019) Mixed structural resource selection function (mixed-SRSF) for assessing the contribution of different variables to resource selection. II Movement Ecology Brazil Meeting, Campo Grande, Brazil. [\[Oral presentation; international\]](#)
- Ortega Z**, Mencía A, Martins K, Soares P, Ferreira VF, Oliveira-Santos LG (2018) Untangling the role of heat sources on microhabitat selection of two neotropical lizards. SINECO – 3rd International Symposium of Ecology, Foz do Iguaçu, Brazil. [\[Poster; international\]](#)
- Ortega Z**, Mencía A, Pérez-Mellado V (2017) Antipredatory behaviour of the high mountain lizard *Iberolacerta aurelio* to the chemical cues of *Vipera aspis* in the Pyrenees. VIII Brazilian Congress of Herpetology, Federal University of Mato Grosso do Sul, Campo Grande, Brazil. [\[Oral presentation; national\]](#)

Ortega Z, Martín-Vallejo J, Pérez-Mellado V (2017) General trends in the thermoregulation of lacertid lizards: a meta-analysis. VIII Brazilian Congress of Herpetology, Federal University of Mato Grosso do Sul, Campo Grande, Brazil. [\[Oral presentation; national\]](#)

Ortega Z, Mencía A, Pérez-Mellado V (2016) Antipredatory responses of the lizards of Menorca to the scents of snakes: from tameness to wariness. International Congress of the Spanish Society of Ethology and Evolutionary Ecology, Granada, Spain. [\[Oral presentation; international\]](#)

Ortega Z, Mencía A, Pérez-Mellado V (2016) Thermal biology of high mountain lizards of the genus *Iberolacerta*: the threat imposed by climate change. 17th Sede Boqer Symposium in Memory of Merav Ziv, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Sede Boqer Campus, Israel. [\[Oral presentation; international\]](#)

Ortega Z, Mencía A, Pérez-Mellado V (2016) Wind constraints on the thermoregulation of high mountain lizards. 3rd Young Natural History Meeting, National Museum of Natural History, Paris, France. [\[Best poster award; international\]](#)

C.3. Research projects: Dr. Ortega has participated in **11 research projects** –two as principal investigator and the others as researcher– totalling 560,000 € (please note that this was a notable amount since they were conducted in Brazil and Spain). She obtained the UE Seal of Excellence twice for MSCA-GF proposals she wrote, and she is currently writing a proposal for an international project.

1) 2021-2023: “Environmental heterogeneity and evolution of clutch size in the Eurasian blue tit (*Cyanistes caeruleus*)” (A-RNM-48-UGR20). Funder: Junta de Andalucía, EU FEDER funds (Spain) (25,000 €). **PI: Gregorio Moreno-Rueda** (UGR). [\[Role: researcher\]](#)

2) 2019-2021: “Parasite impact on the evolution of parent-offspring communication” (CGL2017-84938-P), Funder: Ministry of Economy, Industry and Competitiveness (Spain) (108,900 €). **PI: Gregorio Moreno-Rueda** (UGR). [\[Role: researcher\]](#)

3) 2017-2020: “Understanding the role of personality in the thermal ecology of lizards”. Post-doctoral project, UFMS (Brazil) (4,000 €). **PI: Zaida Ortega** (UFMS). [\[Role: principal investigator\]](#)

4) 2016-2019: “Dynamics of the genetic variation and the adaptive response of the insular *Podarcis*” (CGL2015-68139-C2-2-P). Funder: Spanish Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness (82,300 €). **PI: Valentín Pérez-Mellado** (USAL). [\[Role: researcher\]](#)

5) 2013-2016: “Genetics and ecology of the evolutionary change of the Lacertids of the Mediterranean” (CGL2012-39850-CO2-02). Funder: Spanish Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness (53,840 €). **PI: Valentín Pérez-Mellado** (USAL). [\[Role: researcher\]](#)

6) 2010-2013: “Evolutionary strategies of colonization of the insular clades of the genus *Podarcis* in the Mediterranean basin” (CGL2009-12926-CO2-02). Funder: Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation (53,240 €). **PI: Valentín Pérez-Mellado** (USAL). [\[Role: researcher\]](#)

7) 2006-2009 “Integrating molecular evolution, ecology and biology of lacertids of the Mediterranean islands” (CGL2006-10893-CO2-02). Funder: Spanish Ministry of Science and Education (83,000 €). **PI: Valentín Pérez-Mellado** (USAL). [\[Role: researcher\]](#)

C.4. Technology/Knowledge transfer: Dr. Ortega continuously contributed to knowledge transfer. She has published **7 outreach articles**, has given **15 invited conferences** about animal ecology and conservation, climate change, women in science and scientific leadership at events organized by local governments and ONGs. She organized **four knowledge transfer projects** in Brazil to engage the local community in nature preservation. Dr. Ortega also contributes to **knowledge transfer by means of art**: she illustrated two outreach books and was a graphic facilitator at two international congresses (aiming to bring scientific knowledge to Brazilian indigenous communities). She contributes to [NESI global hub](#) as **consultant and lecturer** in sustainability reports and an innovative master’s degree on bioeconomy. She gained **three outreach grants** (totalling 27,000 €) from [Homeward Bound](#), the [local government of Palencia](#) and the company [Grupo-CFI](#). She also participated in **podcasts, social network videos and visual projects**, and **more than 50 newspapers news, radio and TV reports** communicated her science and outreach (some examples here: <https://www.zaidaortega.com/media>).