

LOTANNA MICAH NNEJI

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ACADEMIC HISTORY/POSITIONS

- 2020 **Presidential Postdoctoral Research Associate;** Princeton University, Princeton, NJ, USA. Advisor: Professor Robert M. Pringle.
- 2018-20 **Postdoctoral Research Fellow/Research Assistant;** Kunming Institute of Zoology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, China. Advisors: Professor Jing Che.
- 2015-18 **PhD Student;** Kunming Institute of Zoology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, China. Advisors: Professors Jing Che, Robert Murphy, Adiaha A. A. Ugwumba.
- 2014-15 **Teaching Assistant;** Department of Zoology, University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria. Supervisor: Professor Adiaha A. A. Ugwumba
- 2011-12 **Graduate Assistant;** SIWES Unit, Office of the Vice Chancellor, University of Abuja, FCT, Nigeria. Supervisor: Professor I. D. Umar.

EDUCATION

- 2018 **PhD Genetics**
University of Chinese Academy of Sciences, China.
- 2015 **MSc Zoology (Ecology and Environmental Biology, with PhD grade)**
University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria.
- 2011 **BSc Biology (First Class Honors)**
University of Abuja, Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, Nigeria.
- 2005 **National Diploma (Science Laboratory Technology, with Distinction)**
Federal Polytechnic Oko, Anambra State, Nigeria.

OTHER EDUCATIONAL TRAINING

- 2019 Exploring Conservation Online Programme organized by United for Wildlife and US National Geographic on the following certified courses: (1) *Introduction to Conservation*; (2) *Prioritizing Species and Spaces*; (3) *Conservation Project Planning*; (4) *Scientific Expeditions for Conservation*; (5) *Understanding Illegal Wildlife trade*; and (6) *Ocean challenges and solutions*.
- 2019 *Introductory E-course on Climate Change*: organized by United Nations Institute for Training and Research, and One UN Climate Change Learning Partnership.

- 2019 *Specialized module on Human Health and Climate*: organized by United Nations Institute for Training and Research, One UN Climate Change Learning Partnership and World Health Organization.
- 2019 *Specialized module on IUCN Red List Assessments*: organized by International Union for Conservation of Nature – IUCN.

HONORS, AWARDS, DISTINCTIONS, SCHOLARSHIPS

- 2015-18 Chinese Government Scholarship for Ph. D Programme -University of Chinese Academy of Sciences, China.
- 2015 Best Graduating M. Sc Student- Ecology and Environmental Biology Unit, Department of Zoology, University of Ibadan, Nigeria (CGPA: 6.70/7.0)
- 2011 Overall Best Graduating B. Sc (Hons) Student of the University- University of Abuja, Nigeria (CGPA: 4.71/5.0).
- 2005 Best Graduating ND Student- Department of Science Laboratory Technology, School of Applied Sciences and Engineering, Federal Polytechnic, Oko, Nigeria (CGPA: 3.91/3.0)

GRANT AND FELLOWSHIP AWARDED

- 2020 US National Geographic BioBlitz event grant to support '*BioBlitz project on amphibian conservation and studies at the Cross River National Park, Nigeria*'.
- 2020-22 EDGE (Evolutionarily Distinct and Globally Endangered Species) Fellowship and Grant for the project '*Status and Conservation of Cameroon Slippery Frog (Conraua robusta) in Nigeria*' by Zoological Society of London and US National Geographic.
- 2020-21 Second Rufford Small Grant to support '*Ecological studies and community-based conservation activities for amphibians and reptiles of Gashaka Gumti National Park, Nigeria*'.
- 2018-20 US National Geographic Early Career Grant for the project '*Diversity, distribution and Conservation of amphibians in Cross River National Park, Nigeria, Africa*'.
- 2018-19 Idea Wild Grant for the project '*Biodiversity Assessment and Conservation of Amphibians and Reptiles of Gashaka Gumti National Park, Nigeria*'.
- 2018-19 Mohamed bin Zayed for Species Conservation '*Conservation of critically endangered frog Sclerophrys perreti from Idanre Hill, Nigeria: Approaches from species action plan and habitat restoration*'.
- 2017-18 First Rufford Small Grant to support '*Biodiversity Assessment and Conservation of Amphibians and Reptiles of Gashaka Gumti National Park, Nigeria*'.

GRANTS CURRENTLY UNDER CONSIDERATION

- 2020 2020 Future Conservationist Award for Early Career Scientist by Conservation Leadership Programme to support ‘*Conservation of the vulnerable Nkongsamba Frog in Southeastern Nigeria*’.
- 2020 The Crowder-Messersmith Conservation Fund to support ‘*Community-based conservation outreach programmes for the protection of the threatened amphibian and reptile populations of Gashaka Gumti National Park, Nigeria*’.

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS (*Equal first co-author)

i. Published articles

1. *Segun O. Oladipo, **Lotanna M Nneji**, Oluyinka A. Iyiola ... Moshood K. Mustapha. Patterns of Ichthyofaunal diversity and distribution across Jebba Hydro-Electric Power (HEP) Dam, Jebba, North-Central Nigeria. *Brazilian Journal of Biology*; In press
2. Adeola, A.C., Min-Sheng, P, **Lotanna M. Nneji**,...Zhang, Y.P. (2020). Mitochondrial DNA variation of Nigeria Muscovy duck (*Cairina moschata*). *Animal Genetics*. DOI:10.1111/age.12924.
3. **Lotanna M. Nneji**, Adeniyi C. Adeola....Caroline Olory (2020). Testing the effectiveness of DNA barcoding for the biodiversity assessment of moths from Nigeria. *Diversity*, 12 (2):85.
4. Adeola O. Ayoola, Babafemi G. Ogunjemite, **Lotanna M. Nneji** and Oguchi B. Nkume (2019). Comparative reproductive behavior in captive Baboon (*Papio anubis*) and Red capped mangabey (*Cercocebus torquatus*). *Journal of Entomology and Zoology Studies*, 7(6):479-483.
5. **Lotanna M. Nneji**, Gabriel Salako, Adeniyi C. Adeola, Segun O. Oladipo, Babatunde Emmanuel Adedeji and Adiaha A. A. Ugwumba (2019). Species Distribution Modelling predicts habitat suitability and reduction of suitable habitat under future climatic scenario for *Sclerophrys perreti* - a critically endangered Nigerian endemic toad. *African Journal of Ecology*, 00:1–11; <https://doi.org/10.1111/aje.12713>.
6. **Lotanna M. Nneji**, Adeola C. Adeniyi, Okeyoyin, A.... Ugwumba, A. A. A. (2019). Diversity of amphibians and reptiles of Gashaka Gumti National Park, Nigeria. *Herpetology Notes*, 12: 543 –559.
7. Chun-Hua Yang, Ting-Ting Fu, **Lotanna M. Nneji**, Robert W. Murphy, Yan-Bo Sun and Jing Che (2019). Comparative skin histology of frogs reveals high-elevation adaptation of the Tibetan *Nanorana parkeri*. *Asian Herpetological Research*, 10 (2): 79 – 85.

8. **Lotanna M. Nneji**, Adeniyi C. Adeola, Agboola O....Calorine Olory (2019). First record of Foulassi screeching frog *Arthroleptis adelphus* Perret 1966 (Anura, Arthroleptidae) from Nigeria, with notes on its phylogenetic position. *Check List*, 15 (1): 253-258.
9. **Lotanna M. Nneji**, Adeola C. Adeniyi, Yan Fang ... and Jing C. (2019). Cryptic lineage diversity of Nigerian red headed rock agama (*Agama agama*) associate with eco-geographic zones. *Current Zoology*, <https://doi.org/10.1093/cz/zoz002>
10. **Lotanna M. Nneji**, Adeola C. Adeniyi, Okeyoyin, A. Ugwumba, A. A. A. (2019). Assessing the effectiveness of molecular data for species identification and diversity studies of Nigerian herpetofauna. Mitochondrial DNA: Resources, 10.1080/23802359.2018.1561219.
11. Adeola O. Ayoola, Yunyu Wang, **Lotanna M. Nneji**, Adeniyi C. Adeola, Babafemi G. Ogunjemite & Dong-Dong Wu (2018). Complete mitochondrial genome sequence for the *Cercopithecus erythrotis camerunensis* (Primate: Cercopithecidae). *Mitochondrial DNA: Resources*, 10.1080/23802359.2018.1546138
12. **Lotanna M. Nneji**, Adeola C. Adeniyi, Yan Fang ...Ugwumba A. A. A and Jing C. (2018). Cryptic diversity of Nigerian Agama within West African Radiation. *Russian Journal of Herpetology*, 25 (2): 97-112.
13. *Olayinka, A. Iyiola, **Lotanna M. Nneji**, Moshood K. Mustapha...Wen-Zhi, Wang, Adeola C. Adeniyi (2018). DNA barcoding of economically important fish species of North – Central Nigeria uncovers cryptic lineages. *Ecology and Evolution*.
14. Segun O. Oladipo, **Lotanna M. Nneji**, Abass T. Anifowoshe...Adeniyi C. Adeola and Moshood K. Mustapha. (2018). Growth Pattern and Condition Factor of Seven Commercially Important Freshwater Fish Species of Jebba Lake, North-Central Nigeria. *Iranian Journal of Ichthyology*, 5(2).
15. Adeyi O. Akindele, **Lotanna M. Nneji**, Adeyi O. Esther, Babatunde Agbaohun (2018). Combined use of earthworm (*Alma millsoni*) and bacterium (*Bacillus* sp.) improved the bioremediation of spent engine oil contaminated soil. *Chemistry and Ecology*, 34 (1).
16. Adeola, A.C., Olufunke, O.O., Bukola, M.O., Temilola, O. O., Bamidele, B., Sunday, C.O., **Lotanna M. Nneji**...Min-Sheng, P., Zhang, Y.P. (2017). Analysis of the genetic variation in the mitochondrial DNA, Y chromosome sequences, and MC1R sheds light on the ancestry of Nigerian indigenous pigs. *Genetics, Selection and Evolution*, 49: 52.
17. **Lotanna M. Nneji**, Oluwatobi T. Somande, Adeyi O. Akindele (2016). Earthworm-assisted bioremediation of petroleum hydrocarbon-contaminated soils from motorcar mechanic workshops in Ibadan, Oyo State, Southwestern Nigeria. *Bioremediation Journal*, 20 (4).

18. Adeyi O. Akindele, **Lotanna M. Nneji**, Idowu A. B. (2015). Ameliorative potentials of medicinal plants on the pathophysiological complications of diabetes mellitus: A review. *Journal of Medicinal Plant Research*, 9 (8): 262-288.

ii. Under Review

1. Hai-Bing Xie, Chen Yan, Adeniyi C. Adeola, Wang Kun**Lotanna M. Nneji**...Ya-Ping Zhang. The African Suidae genome architectures shed light on the evolution of natural reservoirs of African swine fever virus. *National Science Review*.
2. Mizan Mizanur, **Lotanna M. Nneji**, Adeniyi C. Adeola, Eniang A. Edem.... Jing Che (2020). Amphibian assemblages and diversity patterns in two forest ecosystems of South-eastern Nigeria. *African Journal of Ecology*.
3. Adeola O. Ayoola, Bao-Lin Zhang, Christian Roos, **Lotanna M. Nneji**,..... Dong-Dong Wu (2019). Population Genomics Reveals Speciation and Introgression in the Mona Monkey (*Cercopithecus mona*) of African Guenon. *Molecular Biology and Evolution*.
4. **Lotanna M. Nneji**, Adeniyi C. Adeola, Babatunde E. Adedeji, Omotoso Olatunde....Caroline Olory (2019). Patterns of diversity of amphibians in Cross River National Park, South-eastern Nigeria. *Tropical Conservation Science*.
5. **Lotanna M. Nneji**, Adeola C. Adeniyi, Moshood K. Mustapha... Nwani Christopher. DNA barcoding Silver butter catfish (*Schilbe intermedius*) reveals patterns of mitochondrial genetic diversity across African river systems. *Scientific Reports*.
6. Ayoola Adeola, Ogunjemite Babafemi, **Lotanna M. Nneji**, Olaniyi Oluwatobi, and Odewumi, Oluyinka. Species distribution of Non-Human Primates along the Nigeria-Benin Republic transboundary. *African Journal of Ecology*.

i. In Preparation

1. **Lotanna M. Nneji**, Adeniyi C. Adeola, Babatunde E. Adedeji, Omotoso Olatunde....Caroline Olory. DNA barcodes of butterflies from Southeastern Nigeria reveals cryptic diversity. Proposed Journal of Submission- *Genes* [Available on Request].
2. Adeola Oluwakemi Ayoola, **Lotanna M. Nneji**....Adeola Charles Adeniyi, Babafemi George Ogunjemite and Dong Dong Wu. Comparative mitochondrial genome analyses of Guenon monkeys from Nigeria with notes on its phylogenetic positions. Proposed Journal of Submission- *PeerJ* [Available on Request].
3. Adeola Oluwakemi Ayoola, **Lotanna M. Nneji**, Chabi Raimi ...Adeola Charles Adeniyi, Babafemi George Ogunjemite and Dong Dong Wu. The Biogeography and Conservation

- Status of Non-human primates of Africa. Proposed Journal of Submission- *Zoological Research* [Available on Request].
4. **Lotanna M. Nneji**, Robert W. Murphy and Jing Che. Patterns of vertebrate dispersal and interchange between mainland Africa and Asia: What do molecules suggest? Proposed Journal of Submission- *Biological Reviews*. [Available on Request].
 5. Peng Min-Sheng, Adeniyi C. Adeola, Quan-Kuan Shen...**Lotanna M Nneji**, Ali Esmailzadeh, Yang Dong, Sheila C. Omeila and Ya-Ping Zhang. Whole-genome sequencing unveils helmeted Guinea Fowl (*Numida meleagris*) domestication in West Africa. Proposed Journal of Submission- *Nature Communications* [Available on Request].
 6. **Lotanna M. Nneji**, Gabriel Salako, Segun O. Oladipo, Babatunde Emmanuel Adedeji and Adeniyi C. Adeola (2020). Assessment of conservation status and priorities for amphibian species endemic to African Guineo-Congolian rainforest region. Proposed Journal of Submission- *Diversity and Distribution* [In writing].

THESES:

- **Lotanna M. Nneji**. 2018. Biodiversity assessment and DNA barcoding of herpetofauna of Gashaka Gumti National Park, Nigeria. PhD Dissertation, University of Chinese Academy of Sciences, China.
- **Lotanna M. Nneji**. 2015. Enhanced bioremediation of spent engine oil contaminated soils with earthworm [*Alma millsoni* (Beddard, 1891)] and bacterium. MSc Dissertation, Department of Zoology, University of Ibadan, Nigeria.
- **Lotanna M. Nneji**. 2010. The antibacterial activity of the methanolic root extract of *Parinari curatellifolia*. BSc Dissertation, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Abuja, Nigeria.

CONFERENCE/WORKSHOP ATTENDED

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| 2020 | Conservation Tool Course, held at the Southern African Wildlife College, by Zoological Society of London, from January-February 2020. |
| 2018 | The Molecular Tree of Life: From Coalescence to Comparative Genomics. Organized by Jiangsu Normal University, China. From May 27- 31 st 2018. |
| 2016 | The International Biogeography Society Special Meeting. Theme: ‘ <i>The Biogeography of Ecology</i> ’. Organized by International Biogeography Society, in Beijing, China from May 4 – 8, 2016. |
| 2015 | 2nd International Conference on Scientific Research and Innovation. Theme ‘ <i>Scientific Research and Innovation in Nigeria</i> ’ Organized by Premier Faculty of Science, University of Ibadan, Nigeria from 16 -20 March 2015. |

2014 9th Annual National Conference of Zoological Society of Nigeria: Theme ‘*Wildlife, Zoonoses, Environmental Management and Food Security in a Developing Economy*’ organized by the Department of Zoology, Faculty of Science, University of Ibadan, Nigeria from November 30 - December 03 2014.

PAPERS PRESENTED IN CONFERENCE

- 2019: Lotanna M. Nneji, Adeniyi Charles Adeola, Jie-Qiong Jin, Adiaha A. A. Ugwumba, Min-Sheng Peng, Robert W. Murphy, Jing Che (2019). **Phylogeography of Red Headed Rock Agama (*Agama agama*) from Nigeria**. Featured in Joint Meeting of Ichthyologist and Herpetologist, July 24-28th 2019. (Unavoidably absent for oral presentation but was featured in the conference book of abstract)
- 2017: Adeola A. C., Olufunke O. O., Bukola M. O., Temilola, O.O., Bamidele, B., Sunday, C. O., **Nneji, L. M.**..... Min-Sheng P., Zhang Y. P. (2017). *Mitochondrial DNA, Y-Chromosome sequences, and MC1R sheds light on the ancestry of Nigerian indigenous pigs*. A paper presented in the 36th International Society for Animal Genetics Conference, Dublin, Ireland, 2017.
- 2016: **Nneji, L.M.**, Adeola, A.C., Ugwumba, A.A.A, Fang, Y. and Che, J. (2016). *Species identification and biodiversity studies of Herpetofauna of Nigeria using Molecular Data*. A poster presentation in International Biogeography Society Special Meeting, Beijing, China, 2016.

GRADUATE STUDENT ADVISED

1. Md Mizanur Rahman; PhD Student; Kunming Institute of Zoology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, China (*Co-assisting Professor Jing Che*); 2018- 2020.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- i. Assist in teaching and supervising undergraduate practical classes in Animal Physiology (main tutor: Dr. A. O. Adeyi), University of Ibadan, Nigeria; 2014-2015
- ii. Assist in teaching Biology for Remedial classes in the Department of Biological Sciences (main tutor: Professor ID Umar), University of Abuja, Abuja, Nigeria; 2010-11

FIELD RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- i. Field survey of non-human primates in Cross River National Park, Gashaka Gumti National and Idanre forest reserves in Nigeria (2019).

- ii. Field collections and survey of amphibians of Idanre forest reserve, Nigeria (2018). Field survey of critically endangered and endemic frog – *Sclerophrys perreti* from Idanre hills (UNESCO World Heritage Site), Nigeria (2018-19).
- iii. Field collections of amphibians of Afi forest reserve and Ikpan forest ecosystems, Nigeria (2018-ongoing).
- iv. Field collections of amphibians and reptiles of non-protected forests in southern Nigeria (2018-ongoing).
- v. Field sampling of helmeted Guinea Fowl (*Numida meleagris*) from Nigeria (2017)
- vi. Field collections and survey of Nigerian lizards within the genus *Agama* from 26 states in Nigeria. (2017).
- vii. Field collections and survey of amphibians and reptiles of Oban (UNESCO World Heritage Site) and Okwango Divisions of Cross River National Park, Nigeria (2017-ongoing).
- viii. Field collections and survey of amphibians and reptiles of Gashaka Gumti National Park, Nigeria (2016-2017).
- ix. Field collection of freshwater fishes from different river bodies in Nigeria (2016-18).
- x. Field collection of moths and butterflies from South-eastern Nigeria (2017-18).

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAMMES

- i. Capacity building and training of rangers at the Gashaka Gumti National Park Nigeria on the techniques of collection, identification and study of amphibians and reptiles in the park (2017). https://www.rufford.org/projects/lotanna_micah_nneji
- ii. Capacity building and training of rangers at the Cross River National Park Nigeria on the techniques of collection, identification and study of amphibians and reptiles in the park (2018 and 2020).
- iii. Conservation education and outreach programmes in the secondary schools within the support community zones of Gashaka Gumti National Park Nigeria (2018) to enlighten youngsters on the conservation needs of animals including amphibian and reptiles in the park. https://www.rufford.org/projects/lotanna_micah_nneji
- iv. Conservation education and outreach programmes within a community in Gashaka Gumti National Park Nigeria (2018) to enlighten public on the need to conserve herpetofauna. https://www.rufford.org/projects/lotanna_micah_nneji.

INVITED PEER-REVIEWER

- i. African Journal of Ecology
- ii. Manilla Journal of Science
- iii. Brazilian Journal of Biology
- iv. Mediterranean Botany
- v. Journal of Wildlife and Biodiversity
- vi. Aquatic Conservation: Marine and Freshwater Ecosystems

SOCIETY MEMBER

- i. Member, International Biogeography Society
- ii. Member, Zoological Society of Nigeria
- iii. Member, Sigma Xi – Scientific Research Honor Society, US
- iv. US National Geographic Explorer
- v. EDGE Fellow