

Orlando Vargas R.
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Orlando is currently working at La Selva Biological Station as the Head of Scientific Operations, has been part of the research team of Digital Florula Project, which has created a website or digital plant guide of 2000 + species found at La Selva. Among his duties he is searching and collecting plant specimens in the field and gathering images, natural history and botanical collections for different Costa Rican and international herbaria, he is in charge of the Herbarium, coordinates the Christmas Bird Count, leads the Invasive alien plant species and deals with long term databases that includes information and results of the vast science of the station. He started working at the station in 1982, and he was the first youngest researcher's assistant that came to La Selva. During 1982 and 1989 he assisted many researchers by collecting field data for various scientific papers and thesis.

In 1990 Orlando assisted the Biodiversity Institute (INBIO) on the Flora of Costa Rica Manual, and worked as the Naturalist at Rara Avis Field Station.



Since 1991, he became the Station Naturalist, to assist the Environmental education program, technical and botanical support for researchers and natural history walks for the various educational groups visiting La Selva. In March 2002, he decided to leave La Selva to start and help the creation of new field sites for Latin-American students and scientists, some of these efforts end up with the establishment of the Reserva Ecológica Bijagual, a new conservation unit in the Sarapiquí region.

In September 2004 Orlando came back to La Selva Biological as the Station naturalist. All of these experiences have given Orlando the opportunity to collaborate with more the 50 scientific papers, direct participation in conservation projects in the region and have served as a teaching assistant for various OTS courses and other workshops.