

Kevin James Purce

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EDUCATION

The City College of New York, New York, NY, 2011-present

- MA candidate in Biology, expected graduation May 2013

Villanova University, Villanova, PA, 2006-2010

- BS in Biology
- Minor in Environmental Studies

NUI Galway, Co. Galway, Ireland, Summer 2008

- Attended a 6 credit summer program, through Villanova University, with classes on Irish history

LABORATORY & RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant, 2011-present

The City College of New York, New York, NY

- Master's thesis on parasite control exerted by the slave-making ant *Protomognathus americanus* on the nest selection behavior of its host species, *Temnothorax spp.*
- I collect the acorn dwelling ants in parks and forests in the area, primarily Black Rock Forest in upstate New York
- I feed and care for the over 70 ant colonies, and counting, in an environmental chamber on campus

Undergraduate Field Work, Winter 2009-2010

Villanova University, Yucatán Peninsula, Mexico

- Assisted lead investigators with data collection of the activity of the world's only known herbivorous spider, *Bagheera kiplingi*
- Conducted an independent project concerning ant-acacia mutualism at Río Lagartos
- Recorded general observations of bird and animal species in research areas

Undergraduate Laboratory Assistant, Summer 2009

Villanova University, Villanova, PA

- Analyzed water samples for pH levels, nitrogen concentration, and other chemical properties; identified resident algae species
- Gained experience with standard techniques for analyzing water chemistry and using compound and electron microscopes

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Animal behavior
- Entomology
- Ecology
- Brood parasitism

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching assistant, Strategy of Life, CCNY, 2012

- Led weekly recitation classes and additional review classes, created and graded quizzes, and proctored exams

PUBLICATIONS

Boylan, M. et al., 2008. Personal solar energy and environmental awareness, *Occasional Papers: Sustainability* 15: 16 - 18.

SYNERGISTIC ACTIVITIES

Volunteer, Bronx River Alliance, the Bronx, NY 2010-2011

- Helped with river clean-up and other community activities run by the Alliance

Volunteer, National Student Partnerships, Philadelphia, PA, 2007-2008

- Assisted clients in West Philadelphia with filling out public housing and benefit forms as well as helping them incorporate the Internet into their job searches