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# NWRC Research Scientists: Dr. Natalie Claunch

Last Modified:



Dr. Natalie Claunch (PhD) is broadly interested in the intersections between invasion ecology, herpetology, eco-physiology, disease ecology, and wildlife damage.

This has included investigating rattlesnake stress ecology; immune and hormonal responses to novel and stressful environments that accompany introduction in curly-tailed lizards, rock agamas, Burmese pythons, and brown treesnakes; thermal ecology of panther chameleons, curly-tailed lizards, and fence lizards; and

susceptibility to *Bsal* chytrid infection in salamanders. Her research focuses on creative strategies to: 1) mitigate the impacts and forecast the spread of introduced species, and 2) mitigate the impacts of invasive wildlife on herpetofauna of conservation concern.

## Research Project

### [Avian and Invasive Species Population](#)

This project focuses on developing new information and methods for managing vulture populations; evaluating potential impacts on invasive species; devising control techniques to reduce or eliminate invasive species; investigating genetic and other approaches to detect and monitor invasive species; and developing methods



at species.

## Current Research

- Agricultural, Ecological, Economic and Infrastructure Impacts of Invasive Green Iguanas
- Methods development for control of Peters' Rock Agama
- Ecological impacts of invasive parasites from Burmese Python

## Education

- Ph.D., Interdisciplinary Ecology, Physiological Legacy of Invasive Reptiles, University of Florida School of Natural Resources and Environment
- M.S., Biological Sciences, Stress Ecology of the Pacific Rattlesnakes, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo
- B.S., Zoology, North Carolina State University

## **International Experience**

- Co-leader of River Ecology and Conservation Workshop in Guatemala
- Collaboration with scientists in Mexico, Germany, and Australia to maintain a database on global amphibian thermal biology
- Collaborator and consultant for thermal ecology research development in Canada

## **Affiliations**

- Courtesy Faculty, University of Florida Department of Biology
- Board Member, The Wildlife Society Invasive Species Working Group
- Governor, American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists
- Section Editor, Reptiles & Amphibians

Natalie Claunch

Wildlife Biologist

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