

MICHAEL E. DORCAS, PH.D.

Ecologist | Scientific Editor | Research Consultant

Former Endowed Professor of Biology | AAAS Fellow

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Ph.D. ecologist and former endowed professor with more than 30 years of experience in scientific research, scholarly publishing, university teaching, and applied consulting. Author of 150 total publications, including 117 peer-reviewed journal articles, 8 scholarly books, and 25 book chapters. Extensive experience strengthening manuscripts, proposals, reports, and technical documents through substantive editing, research design critique, peer-review insight, and clear scientific communication.

CORE STRENGTHS

- Scientific manuscript editing and journal submission preparation
- Structural editing to improve clarity, logic, and argument strength
- Grant proposal development and reviewer-focused revision
- Research design evaluation and methodological critique
- Technical report writing, editing, and scientific synthesis
- Peer-review response strategy and revision support
- Ecological data interpretation and evidence evaluation
- Stakeholder communication, presentations, and expert consultation

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

- Former Nancy and Erwin Maddrey Professor of Biology at Davidson College.
- 150 total publications, including 117 peer-reviewed journal articles, 8 books, and 25 book chapters.
- More than \$2.2 million in competitive research funding from NSF, USGS, USFWS, Department of Defense, Duke Energy, and other sponsors.
- National Science Foundation CAREER Award recipient and Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS).
- Directed and mentored more than 70 student researchers and supervised projects from concept to publication.
- Delivered 160+ scientific presentations and 60+ invited seminars at regional, national, and international venues.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Founder and Principal Consultant

Tantilla Consulting / Tantilla LLC | 2025-present

- Provide independent consulting focused on scholarly communication, manuscript editing, research evaluation, and technical review.
- Conduct peer-review-level editing and substantive revision for biological and ecological manuscripts, reports, and proposals.
- Evaluate research design, analytical approaches, interpretation of results, and overall argument structure for academic and applied projects.

- Provide grant and proposal feedback informed by extensive experience with competitive funding programs and review expectations.

Professor of Biology (Endowed Chair 2015-2016)

Davidson College, Davidson, NC | 1998-2016

- Led a long-term research and teaching program in ecology, conservation biology, physiological ecology, and wildlife science.
- Secured and managed 84 grants and contracts totaling more than \$2.2 million; oversaw projects from proposal development through reporting and publication.
- Authored 149 total publications, including 117 peer-reviewed journal articles, 8 scholarly books, and 25 book chapters.
- Directed and mentored more than 70 undergraduate, graduate, and postdoctoral researchers; supervised research design, analysis, and scientific writing.
- Provided expert consultation to organizations including Duke Energy, the National Park Service, and the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission.

Science Instructor, Adult Continuing Education Program

FCI Ft. Dix, NJ | 2021-2025

- Developed and taught foundational science curriculum for non-traditional adult learners in a structured institutional setting.
- Emphasized clear explanation of biological concepts, analytical reasoning, and accessible scientific communication.

Postdoctoral Fellow

University of Georgia, Savannah River Ecology Laboratory, Aiken, SC | 1995-1998

- Conducted ecological research and contributed to large-scale field projects, publications, and externally funded studies.

EDITORIAL, REVIEW, AND RECOGNITION

- Associate Editor: *Herpetologica*; *Herpetological Review*.
- Manuscript reviewer for numerous journals including *Ecology*, *Conservation Biology*, *Biological Conservation*, *Oikos*, *Journal of Wildlife Management*, and *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.
- Grant reviewer and review-panel participant for organizations including the National Science Foundation, U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center, and Virginia Sea Grant.
- Selected distinctions include AAAS Fellow, NSF CAREER Award, two-time Senior Research Award from the Association of Southeastern Biologists, Outstanding Mentor Award (Council for Undergraduate Research), and Environmental Educator of the Year (North Carolina Wildlife Federation).

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Biology - Idaho State University, Pocatello, ID | 1995

M.S. Biology - University of Texas at Arlington, Arlington, TX | 1990

B.S. Biology - University of Texas at Arlington, Arlington, TX | 1986