

MATTHEW C. PACE

THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN
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EDUCATION

- 2011 – 2015 **PhD, University of Wisconsin – Madison:** Botany
Dissertation: *Evolution, species boundaries, morphology, and biogeography of Spiranthes*. Advisor: Kenneth M. Cameron
- 2003 – 2007 **BS, Cornell University:** Plant Science

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COURSEWORK

- 2021 iDigBio Strategic Planning for Biodiversity Collections course

PROFESSIONAL & ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- 2022 – Present **The City University of New York**
Adjunct Professor
- 2024 – Present **The New York Botanical Garden**
Associate Curator of the Herbarium
- 2015 – 2024 Assistant Curator of the Herbarium
- 2007 – 2011 Curatorial Assistant
- 2005; 2006 Herbarium Intern
- 2013 – 2015 **University of Wisconsin – Madison**
Teaching Assistant, Departments of Botany & Zoology
- 2013 – 2014 Flora Aeterna Fellow, Department of Botany
- 2011 – 2013 Research Assistant
- 2003 – 2007 **Cornell University**
Curatorial Volunteer, Liberty Hyde Bailey Hortorium

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Orchidaceae, Orchidoideae, Goodyerinae, Spiranthinae, *Cyclopogon*, *Goodyera*, *Lepanthes*, *Microchilus*, *Pelexia*, *Platanthera*, *Spiranthes*, *Zeuxine*, biogeography, species limits, hybridization, integrative taxonomy, phylogenetics, conservation, systematic monography

SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS

- Barrett, C.F., **M.C. Pace**, C.W. Corbett, A. Kennedy, H. Thixton-Nolan, J. Freudenstein. 2024. Organellar phylogenomics at the epidendroid orchid base, with a focus on the mycoheterotrophic *Wulfschlaegelia*. *Annals of Botany*, <https://doi.org/10.1093/aob/mcae084>.
- Barrett, C.F., **M.C. Pace**, and C.W. Corbett. 2024. Plastid genome evolution in leafless members of the orchid subfamily Orchidoideae, with a focus on *Degravillea dermaptera*. *American Journal of Botany*. 111(7): e16370. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ajb2.16370>
- Fay, M.F., J. Lanhorne, **M.C. Pace**. 2024. Plant Portrait: 1101. *Spiranthes spiralis* (L.) Chevall. *Curtis's Botanical Magazine*, 1–9. <https://doi.org/10.1111/curt.12559>
- Pace, M.C.**, M. Wang, P. Li. 2024. *Spiranthes stylites* is another long overlooked Asian *Spiranthes* with an unusual sylvan habitat. *Systematic Botany* 49:117–127. <https://doi.org/10.1600/036364424X17110456120712>

- Pace, M.C.** 2023. *Spiranthes*. In Jepson Flora Project (eds.) Jepson eFlora, Revision 12, https://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/eflora/eflora_display.php?tid=10976
- Zeng, X., M. Wang, M. Cai, P. Luo, **M.C. Pace**, and P. Li. 2023. Characteristics and evolution of leaf epidermis in the genus *Amana* Honda (Liliaceae). *Taxonomy* 3: DOI: 10.3390/taxonomy3030025
- Pace, M.C.** 2023. Independent origins of *Spiranthes* ×*kapnosperia* (Orchidaceae) and their nomenclatural implications. *PhytoKeys*, 226: 89–100. <https://doi.org/10.3897/phytokeys.226.100062>
- Pace, M.C.** 2021. *Spiranthes bightensis* (Orchidaceae), a new and rare cryptic hybrid species endemic to the U. S. Mid-Atlantic Coast. *Phytotaxa*, 498 (3): 159–176.
- Pace, M.C.** 2020. The Orchidaceae of northeastern North American: Systematics, evolution, diversity, and conservation. *Memoirs of the Torrey Botanical Society*, 29: 156–189.
- Pace, M.C.** 2020. A recircumscription of *Goodyera* (Orchidaceae), including the description of *Paorchis* gen. nov., and resurrection of *Cionisaccus*, *Eucosia*, and *Salacistis*. *Brittonia*, 72: 257–267.
- Pace, M.C.** 2020. New species of *Microchilus* and *Pelexia* (Orchidaceae) from the Yungas and western Amazonia of Bolivia and Peru. *Brittonia*, 72: 141–153.
- Pace, M.C.** & K.M. Cameron. 2019. The evolutionary and systematic significance of hybridization between taxa of *Spiranthes* (Orchidaceae) in the California Sierra Nevada and Cascade Range. *Taxon*, 68: 199–217.
- Pace, M. C.**, G. Giraldo, J. Frericks, C.A. Lehnebach, & K.M. Cameron. 2018 on-line first, in print 2019. Illuminating the systematics of the *Spiranthes sinensis* species complex (Orchidaceae): ecological speciation with little morphological differentiation. *Botanical Journal of the Linnean Society*, 189: 36–62.
- Pace, M. C.** & J. V. Freudenstein. 2018. Orchidaceae, the orchid family. In R.F.C. Naczi and Collaborators, *New Manual of Vascular Plants of Northeastern United States and Adjacent Canada*, online edition 2016 onward. NYBG Press, New York. [Pace wrote whole treatment other than *Corallorhiza*]
- Pace, M.C.** & K.M. Cameron. 2017. The systematics of the *Spiranthes cernua* species complex (Orchidaceae): Untangling The Gordian Knot. *Systematic Botany*, 42: 640–669.
- Pace, M.C.**, S.L. Orzell, E.L. Bridges, & K.M. Cameron. 2017. *Spiranthes igniorchis* (Orchidaceae), a new and rare cryptic endemic of the south-central Florida Osceola Plain subtropical grasslands. *Brittonia*, 69: 323–339.
- Pace, M.C.** & K.M. Cameron. 2016. Reinstatement, redescription, and emending of *Spiranthes triloba* (Orchidaceae): Solving a 117 year old cryptic puzzle. *Systematic Botany*, 41: 924–939.
- Spalink, D., B.T. Drew, **M.C. Pace**, J.G. Zaborsky, J.R. Starr, K.M. Cameron, & K.J. Sytsma. 2016. Biogeography of the cosmopolitan sedges (Cyperaceae) and the area-richness correlation in plants. *Journal of Biogeography*, 43: 1893–1904.
- Pace, M.C.**, N. Tarnowsky, E.D. Block, A. Weiss, C. Zimmerman, & B.M. Thiers. 2016. An updated description of the collections and history of The New York Botanical Garden Herbarium (NY): 1995–2015. *Brittonia*, 68: 317–323.
- Atha, D.E., T. Forrest, R.F.C. Naczi, **M.C. Pace**, M. Rubin, J.A. Schuler, & M. Nee. 2016. The historical and extant spontaneous vascular flora of The New York Botanical Garden. *Brittonia*, 68: 245–277.
- Spalink, D., B.T. Drew, **M.C. Pace**, J.G. Zaborsky, P. Li, K.M. Cameron, & K.J. Sytsma. 2015. Evolution of geographical place and niche space: patterns of diversification in the North American sedge (Cyperaceae) flora. *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution*, 95:183–195.
- Pace, M.C.** & A.E. Brant. 2015. *Spiranthes praecox* (Orchidaceae) & *Carex atlantica* subsp. *capillacea* (Cyperaceae): New to the flora of Missouri. *Castanea*, 80: 144–146.

Carter, D.L. & M.C. Pace. 2015. Noteworthy Collection, Wisconsin: *Spiranthes ovalis* var. *erostellata*. *The Michigan Botanist*, 52: 105–108.

Pace, M.C. 2011. First verifiable record of *Betula nigra* L. (River Birch) in Suffolk Co., NY and overview of the species purported distribution on Long Island. *The Journal of the Torrey Botanical Society*, 138: 336–339.

POPULAR PUBLICATIONS & MEDIA INTERVIEWS

The Hand Lens. <http://sweetgum.nybg.org/science/the-hand-lens/> Ongoing contributor to public engagement stories highlighting New York Botanical Garden Steere Herbarium specimens. “NYBG 2023 New Species Review!,” “Botany & Birds: Taking Flight,” “Vanishing Lakes,” “Botanical Ragtime” [with Kenneth Walker], “The Ames–Britton Connection” [with Kenneth Walker], “Orchids in your Home!,” “NYBG 2022 New Species Review!,” “Royal Symbols,” “Naming the Rainbow,” “Ethel Zoe Bailey,” “A Botanical Tour of Harlem,” “NYBG 2021 New Species Review!,” “Meet *Spiranthes bightensis*: A New Orchid in Our Own Backyard,” “Species that Work-from-Home,” “Dancing Lady Orchids Take Center Stage,” “Orchids of New York: Fairy Slippers and Dragon Mouths,” “No Leaves, No Problem!,” “Typical: *Ceratozamia euryphyllidia*, the largest type?,” “Exploring the Bahamas with Lewis Jones Knight Brace,” “The LGBTQ+ Legacy of NYBG: Out of the Cabinet & Pride in the Field,” “New York’s Missing Species”

Pace, M.C. 2024. The Foundation of Global Orchid Conservation. Plant Talk Series. <https://www.nybg.org/planttalk/the-foundation-of-global-orchid-conservation/>

Interviewed for *Science Friday* by Ira Flatow. 2023. Discussed the 50th Anniversary of the Endangered Species Act and orchid conservation. Recording available: <https://www.sciencefriday.com/segments/endangered-species-act-50-anniversary/>

Pace, M.C., & J.G. Zaborsky. 2013. Lady Luck Shines on Hunt for Shining Ladies’ Tresses. *The Flora*, newsletter of the Botanical Club of Wisconsin, Fall 2013: 1–2.

Pace, M.C. 2013. Seeing Red: Convergent Floral Evolution in Cranichideae. *Orchids, The Bulletin of the American Orchid Society*, 82(7).

FUNDING, GRANTS, AND AWARDS

2022 National Science Foundation. Capacity: Biological Collections: Securing and Sharing Biocultural Diversity Collections at The New York Botanical Garden. Award #2140478, Ina Vandebroek & Michael Balick co-PIs; 2022 – present [\$424,728]

2021 National Science Foundation. Digitization TCN: Bringing Asia to Digital Life: Mobilizing Underrepresented Asian Herbarium Collections in the US to Propel Biodiversity Discovery. Award #2100755, Kate Armstrong co-PI; 2021 – present [\$629,237]

2018 National Science Foundation. Digitization TCN: Digitizing “endless forms”: Facilitating Research on Imperiled Plants with Extreme Morphologies. Lead project PI, 2018 – 2023; collaborative proposal with 16 museums and universities; [\$1,179,312 total award; \$837,624 NYBG allocation]

American Society of Plant Taxonomists. Grady L. Webster and Barbara D. Webster Plant Systematics Publication Award. For: Pace, M.C. & K.M. Cameron. 2017. The systematics of the *Spiranthes cernua* species complex (Orchidaceae): Untangling The Gordian Knot. *Systematic Botany*, 42: 640–669.

2014 Native Orchid Conference. Fred Case Grant [\$1,000]

- University of Wisconsin – Madison. Flora Aeterna Fellowship [semester-long Fellowship]
- 2013 University of Wisconsin – Madison. Flora Aeterna Fellowship and Research Grant [semester-long Fellowship and \$7,500]
American Society of Plant Taxonomists. Graduate Student Research Grant [\$800]
Society of Herbarium Curators. Graduate Student Research Grant [\$500]
Native Plant Society of New Mexico. Research Grant [\$1,000]
Botanical Club of Wisconsin. John Thomson Award [\$1,000]
Philadelphia Botanical Club. Bayard Long Award [\$1,000]
- 2012 University of Wisconsin – Madison. Davis Research Grant [\$1,500]
- 2011 University of Wisconsin – Madison. Biological Sciences Scholar Award [\$1,000]
Northeastern Natural History Conference. Honorable Mention, Best Overall Botany Presentation: New York Flora Association
- 2007 Cornell University. Arthur Thomas Memorial Fund Award for strong academic achievement, [\$400]
- 2006 Cornell University. A.M.S. Pridham Scholarship for commitment to academic excellence, [\$1,000]

PROFESSIONAL TALKS, PRESENTATIONS, AND POSTERS

- 2024 NYBG Science Seminar: *NYBG Asia-Pacific Research & Collections: NY's Other Great Strength*. Presented jointly with Kate Armstrong, Han Wang, & Hannah Wheeler.
- 2023 NYBG Science Seminar: “*Subfamily Orchidoideae: the other orchids.*”
Latina/o/x Voices: Transforming the Academic Landscape, a CUNY-wide Interdisciplinary Symposium: “*NYBG as a resource for Latina/o/x Biocultural Study.*” Presented jointly with Kenneth R. Walker, Ella Vardeman, & Ina Vandebroek.
NYBG Science Seminar: “*Exploring the NYBG Ethnobotany, Economic, and Biocultural Collections.*” Presented jointly with Michael Balick & Kenneth R. Walker.
- 2020 NYBG Science Symposium, Invited Speaker: Here Today, Gone Forever: Plant Extinction Now and Conservation Strategies for Tomorrow: “*Herbaria, Living Collections, and Extinction.*”
NYBG Humanities Institute, Queering Botanical Science: A Discussion in Celebration of LGBTQ+ Pride Month, Invited Speaker: “*Pride in the Field: The LGBTQ Legacy of NYBG.*”
- 2017 Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections: “*Adapting to APG IV: Curating the second largest herbarium in the world*” Presented jointly with M.L. McMillin and M. Tulig
- 2016 Mt. Cuba Center, Invited Speaker: “*Cutting The Gordian Knot: Spiranthes as a Model for 21st Century Orchid Research and Conservation*”
Botany 2016. Oral Papers: “*The biogeographic history of Spiranthes (Orchidaceae)*”. “*Updating the Orchid Flora of Eastern North America: Revising Gleason & Cronquist*”. “*What is the evolutionary significance of hybridization in North American Orchidaceae?: Evidence from Spiranthes and Platanthera*”

- 2015 J.F. Crow Institute for the Study of Evolution Seminar Series: “*The most perplexing orchid genus in our flora: Evolution, species boundaries, morphology, and biogeography of Spiranthes*”
- 2014 Avon Park Air Force Range Invited Speaker: “*Identification and conservation of a globally rare orchid: Spiranthes triloba*”
- Botany 2014. Oral Paper: “*Phylogenetic systematics of Spiranthes (Orchidaceae): Assessing species-limits and potential hybridization*”. Poster: “*Preliminary Evidence for Limited Hybridization Among Midwestern Spiranthes (Orchidaceae)*.” Presented jointly with K.M. Cameron
- North American Native Orchid Society Conference: “*Untangling Gordian’s Knot: Reevaluating species status and the biogeographic origins of Spiranthes*”
- University of Wisconsin – Madison Arboretum Science Day: “*Evidence for limited hybridization among Midwestern Spiranthes (Orchidaceae)*”
- 2013 Botany 2013. Poster: “*The utility of fine-scale morphological features in species delimitation of Spiranthes (Orchidaceae)*.” Presented jointly with K.M. Cameron
- University of Wisconsin – Madison Arboretum Science Day Invited Speaker: “*Researching the Diversity and Pollination Biology of Spiranthes, Ladies’ Tresses Orchids*”
- 2011 Northeastern Natural History Conference. Oral Paper: “*Rediscovering the flora of the New York Botanical Garden Forest, using the Steere Herbarium*”

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE, TEACHING, & MENTORSHIP

- 2024 Mentor for Dakota Feirer, New York University Masters in Museum Studies & biocultural collection curation volunteer
- Instructor, NYBG Adult Education: Pressing Plants for Art and Science; with Melisande Schwartzfarb
- Mentor and science co-leader for Mellon Foundation Foodways Interns (Year 3). With Laura Briscoe, co-taught intro botany and morphology, lead plant walks, and helped students formulate independent research projects at the intersection of the humanities and science, resulting in stories published on the NYBG platform: *The Hand Lens*. Eight students from local Bronx community colleges and universities.
- 2023 Instructor, NYBG Adult Education: Pressing Plants for Art and Science; with Melisande Schwartzfarb
- Mentor and science co-leader for Mellon Foundation Foodways Interns (Year 2). With Laura Briscoe, co-taught intro botany and morphology, lead plant walks, and helped students formulate independent research projects at the intersection of the humanities and science, resulting in stories published on the NYBG platform: *The Hand Lens*. Eight students from local Bronx community colleges and universities.
- Search committee member: NYBG Director of the LuEsther T. Mertz Library
- 2022 Mentor and science co-leader for Mellon Foundation Foodways Interns (Year 1). With Laura Briscoe, co-taught intro botany and morphology, lead plant walks, and helped students formulate independent research projects at the intersection of the humanities and science, resulting in stories published on the NYBG platform: *The Hand Lens*. Seven students from local Bronx community colleges and universities.
- Mentor for Kenneth Walker. Ethnobotany and biocultural collections intern, SUNY

Binghamton

- Mentor for Alex DiCorpo. Summer research intern, The Taft School
- 2021 Search committee member: Selby Botanical Gardens Orchid Research Botanist
- 2020 – 2022 NYBG Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access Committee member
- 2020 – 2021 Led NYBG Herbarium, Horticulture, & Library team to implement a unified digital content statement discussing the historical context of our collections
- 2020 City College of New York, BIOL 79302, Current Topics in Plant Biology Graduate Seminar: *Herbarium Curation & Orchidaceae Research*
- Review Panel reviewer: National Science Foundation, Collections in Support of Biological Research (CSBR)
- 2019 Mentor for Lydia Morley, graduate student at Texas A&M University, in partnership with Daniel Spalink
- Search committee member: NYBG Ethnobotany Curator
- 2016 Mt. Cuba Center: Invited taxonomic verification of living Orchidaceae conservation collection
- 2015 – 2020 Instructor, NYBG Adult Education: Plant Whispers: *From Sea to Shining Sea: The New York Botanical Garden's Recent Botanical Exploration in North America*
- Instructor, NYBG Adult Education: Plant Systematics
- Instructor, NYBG Adult Education: Plant Whispers: *The Orchid Next Door*
- 2015 Teaching Assistant, University of Wisconsin – Madison: Botany 345: Plant Morphology and Evolution
- 2014 Teaching Assistant, University of Wisconsin – Madison: Biology 152: Introductory Biology Laboratory
- 2013 Teaching Assistant, University of Wisconsin – Madison: Botany 401: Vascular Flora of Wisconsin
- 2012 – 2013 University of Wisconsin – Madison student chapter of the Botanical Society of America: Graduate Student Liaison
- 2011 – 2015 Taught laboratory procedures (DNA extraction, PCR, data analysis) to under-represented undergraduate and first year graduate students
- 2011 – 2014 University of Wisconsin – Madison Biology Colloquium Series: graduate student board member

FIELDWORK AND COLLECTIONS

Collections deposited to date: 1,300; distributed to AMES, ANHC, APSC, B, BH, BKL, CAS, CM, CONN, FLAS, K, MEXU, MO, NCU, NCSC, NY, NYS, RENZ, RSA, TENN, WIS, US, USF

EDITORIAL & REVIEW SERVICE

2018 – Present Associate Editor, *Botanical Journal of the Linnean Society*

2015 – Present Associate Editor, *Brittonia*

Reviewer for *American Journal of Botany*, *Applications in Plant Science*, *Botanical Journal of the Linnean Society*, *Botanical Review*, Brandeis University Press, *Economic Botany*, *Frontiers in Plant Science*, *Journal of Plant Research*, *Lankesteriana*, *Molecular*

COMMUNITY SCIENCE & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- 2024 Community Gardens + Herbarium community dialog session “Rooted in Conversation.” Co-led a community dialog at The Bronx Library Center about the scientific resources of the Herbarium, exploring opportunities for community and project collaboration.
- 2023 Community Gardens + Herbarium Webinar: led a public-oriented overview of how to access the digital science collections and content of NYBG.
Bronx Green-Up Community Awards: herbarium specimen tabling event
Community Gardens + Herbarium workshop: co-led a workshop on how to make herbarium specimens and initiating community dialog at El Flamboyant Community Garden, Bronx, NY. In partnership with NYBG Humanities Institute and Bronx Green-Up. With Audrey Jenkins & Kenneth Walker.
- 2022 Native Orchid Conference public webinar: “*Ongoing Monographic Studies in Spiranthes*”
Harvard Business School Club of New York webinar: “*The William & Lynda Steere Herbarium at The New York Botanical Garden –A Virtual Visit*”; presented jointly with Kate Armstrong.
- 2021 WeDigBio webinar: Spotlight on Herbarium Research – *Epiphytes!*
DigiVol webinar: “*From Kangaroo Island to New York, learn how DigiVol volunteer contributions are aiding research around the globe*”
- 2019 – Present WeDigBio & DigiVol virtual volunteer transcription events. Projects have focused on epiphytes, bulbs, carnivorous plants, flora of Malaysia, the Himalayan mountains, the Philippines, Cactaceae, Orchidaceae, Piperaceae, Euphorbiaceae, and Bromeliaceae. With Kim Watson and Charlie Zimmerman.
- 2017 Outreach event seminar: “*Rotting Meat, Jewels, and Venus’ Slippers: The Orchids of Southeast Asia*,” NYBG Orchid Evenings
- 2016 Valentine’s Day outreach event seminar: “*Love, Death, Chocolate, and Five-Inch Tongues: The Secret Lives of Orchids*,” NYBG Orchid Evenings
- 2015 – Present NYBG Steere Herbarium Open Houses
- 2015 Public outreach lecture: Participatory Learning and Teaching Organization (PLATO) Seminar Series: “*The most perplexing orchid genus in our flora*”: *Evolution, species boundaries, morphology, and biogeography of Spiranthes*
- 2014 Native Orchid Conference Seminar: “*Untangling Gordian’s Knot: Reevaluating species status and the biogeographic origins of Spiranthes*”
- 2013; 2014 University of Wisconsin – Madison Arboretum Science Day: lecturer
- 2013 Collaborate with Community -Scientists of the Native Orchid Conference in the collecting of North American *Spiranthes* (Orchidaceae)
- 2012 – 2015 Member of Madison Orchid Research Group: publishing reviews of scientific articles in *Orchids Magazine*
- 2012 University of Wisconsin – Madison Science Exploration Day: volunteer
- 2009 Saw Mill River Bioblitz: Botany division NYBG team member

PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES

American Orchid Society

American Society of Plant Taxonomists

The Botanical Society of America

The Society of Herbarium Curators

Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections