

CECILIA CONACO

Curriculum vitae

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PROFESSIONAL HISTORY

Oct 2012-present	Professor Marine Science Institute, University of the Philippines, Diliman
Jun 2015-Jul 2019	Deputy Director Bolinao Marine Laboratory, Marine Science Institute, Pangasinan
Nov 2012-May 2013	Affiliate Assistant Professor University of the Philippines, Cebu College, Cebu City
Jun 2012-Sep 2012	Visiting Scientist under the DOST Balik (Returning) Scientist Program Marine Science Institute, University of the Philippines, Diliman
Jul 2007- May 2012	Postdoctoral Fellow Neuroscience Research Institute, University of California, Santa Barbara

EDUCATION

2002-2007	PhD in Molecular and Cellular Biology Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, New York, USA
1994-1998	BS in Molecular Biology and Biotechnology (<i>magna cum laude</i>) University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

1. Tan K and **Conaco C.** 2021. Characterization of the hidden break in giant clam 28S ribosomal RNA. *Journal of Molluscan Studies* 87(3):eyab029.
2. Posadas N, Baquiran JIP, Nada MAL, Kelly M, **Conaco C.** 2021. Microbiome diversity and host immune functions influence survivorship of sponge holobionts under future ocean conditions. *ISME Journal*. 16(1):58-67.
3. Dizon EG, Da-Anoy JP, Roth MS, **Conaco C.** 2021. Fluorescent protein expression in temperature tolerant and susceptible reef-building corals. *Journal of the Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom*. 101(1):71-80.
4. Ayalon I, Rosenberg Y, Benichou JIC, Campos CLD, Sayco SLG, Nada MAL, Baquiran JIP, Ligson CA, Avisar D, **Conaco C.**, Kuechly HU, Kyba CCM, Cabaitan PC, Levy O. 2020. Coral gametogenesis collapse under artificial light pollution. *Current Biology*. 31(2):413-419.e3.
5. Da-Anoy JP, Cabaitan PC, **Conaco C.** 2020. Warm temperature alters the chemical cue preference of *Acropora tenuis* and *Heliopora coerulea* larvae. *Marine Pollution Bulletin*. 161:111755.
6. Baquiran JIP, Nada MAL, Campos CLD, Sayco SLG, Cabaitan PC, Rosenberg Y, Ayalon I, Levy O, **Conaco C.** 2020. The prokaryotic microbiome of *Acropora digitifera* is stable under short-term artificial light pollution. *Microorganisms*. 8(10):1566.
7. Quimpo TJR, Ligson CA, Manogan DP, Requilme JNC, Albelda RL, **Conaco C** and Cabaitan PC. 2020. Fish farm effluents alter reef benthic assemblages and reduce coral settlement. *Marine Pollution Bulletin*. 153:111025.
8. **Conaco C** and Cabaitan PC. 2020. Influence of salinity and temperature on the survival and settlement of *Heliopora coerulea* larvae. *Marine Pollution Bulletin*. 150:110703.
9. Guzman C, Atrigenio M, Shinzato C, Aliño P, **Conaco C.** 2019. Warm seawater temperature promotes substrate colonization by the blue coral, *Heliopora coerulea*. *PeerJ*. 7:e7785.

10. Da-Anoy J, Cabaitan PC, **Conaco C**. 2019. Species variability in the response to elevated temperature of select corals in north-western Philippines. *Journal of the Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom*. 99(6):1273-1279.
11. Moncada C, Hassenrück C, Gärdes A, **Conaco C**. 2019. Microbial community composition of sediments influenced by intensive mariculture activity. *FEMS Microbiology Ecology*. 95(2):fiz006.
12. Baquiran JIP and **Conaco C**. 2018. Sponge-microbe partnerships are stable under eutrophication pressure from mariculture. *Marine Pollution Bulletin*. 136:125-134.
13. Ravelo SFP and **Conaco C**. 2018. Comparison of the response of *in hospite* and *ex hospite* *Symbiodinium* to elevated temperature. *Marine and Freshwater Behaviour and Physiology*. 51(2):93-108.
14. Guzman C, Shinzato C, Lu T-M, **Conaco C**. 2018. Transcriptome analysis of the reef-building octocoral, *Heliopora coerulea*. *Scientific Reports*. 8:8397.
15. Gajigan AP and **Conaco C**. 2017. A microRNA regulates the response of corals to thermal stress. *Molecular Ecology*. 26:3472–3483.
16. Gajigan AP, Diaz LA, **Conaco C**. 2017. Resilience of the prokaryotic microbial community of *Acropora digitifera* to elevated temperature. *MicrobiologyOpen*. 00:e478.
17. Guzman C and **Conaco C**. 2016. Gene expression dynamics accompanying the sponge thermal stress response. *PLoS ONE*. 11(10): e0165368.
18. Guzman C and **Conaco C**. 2016. Comparative transcriptome analysis reveals insights into the streamlined genomes of haplosclerid demosponges. *Scientific Reports*. 5:18774.
19. **Conaco C**, Neveu P, Zhou H, Arcila ML, Degnan SM, Degnan BM, Kosik KS. 2012. Transcriptome profiling of the demosponge *Amphimedon queenslandica* reveals genome-wide events that accompany major life cycle transitions. *BMC Genomics*. 13:209.
20. **Conaco C**, Bassett DS, Zhou H, Arcila ML, Degnan SM, Degnan BM, Kosik KS. 2012. Functionalization of a proto-synaptic gene expression network. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*. 109 Suppl 1:10612-8.
21. Srivastava M, Simakov O, Chapman J, Fahey B, Gauthier MAE, Mitros T, Richards GS, **Conaco C**, Dacre M, Hellsten U, Larroux C, Putnam NH, Stanke M, Adamska M, Darling A, Degnan SM, Oakley TH, Plachetzki DC, Zhai Y, Adamski M, Calcino A, Cummins SF, Goodstein DM, Harris C, Jackson DJ, Leys SP, Shu S, Woodcroft BJ, Vervoort M, Kosik KS, Manning G, Degnan BM, Rokhsar DS. 2010. The *Amphimedon queenslandica* genome and the evolution of animal complexity. *Nature*. 466(7307):720-6.
22. **Conaco C**, Otto SJ, Han JJ, Mandel G. 2006. Reciprocal actions of REST and a microRNA promote neuronal identity. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*. 103(7): 2422-2427.

RESEARCH GRANTS

Nov 2022-Oct 2025	Investigating the genetic basis of adaptive capacity in mesophotic organisms (Under Program: Ecological factors affecting mesophotic coral reef ecosystems: potential refuge from disturbances) (DOST-PCAARRD)
Jan 2021-Dec 2025	Coral resilience and adaptation (Under the Regional Coral Restoration Networks in the Philippines and Australia Project) (Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research)
Feb 2018-Jun 2021	Development of molecular resources for enhancement of giant clam culture and rearing techniques (Under Program: Assessing the status of giant clams and advancing culture techniques) (DOST-PCAARRD)
Feb 2018-Jun 2021	Effect of environmental stressors on the gene expression responses of selected organisms (Under Project: Possible influence of acidification on specific reef resources; under Program Coastal Acidification: How it affects the marine environment and resources in the Philippines) (DOST-PCAARRD)
Jan 2014-May 2017	Exploring molecular mechanisms underlying coral resilience to thermal stress (Under Program: Enhancing Coral Restoration Efforts: Molecular Genetic Studies and Genomic Studies of Coral Resilience of the Program: Production of Corals for Reef Restoration) (DOST-PCAARRD)
Aug 2013-Feb 2015	The role of microRNAs in the resilience of corals to thermal stress (International Foundation for Science)

EDITORIAL BOARDS AND PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES

Nov 2019-2023	Assistant Editor, Integrative and Comparative Biology (Oxford University Press)
May 2017	Regular Member, National Research Council of the Philippines