

Laura Limonciello

WILDLIFE ECOLOGY & BIODIVERSITY RESEARCH

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RESEARCH PROFILE

PhD candidate in Biodiversity studying medium- and large-sized mammals in urban environments. Research interests include mammal communities, species distributions, daily activity patterns and human-wildlife coexistence. Experience combines camera trapping, ecological analysis in R, GIS and collaboration with international monitoring networks.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

PhD in Biodiversity | November 2023-present

University of Palermo / University of Molise, Italy.

Monitoring mammal communities across Italian urban areas within the National Biodiversity Future Center framework. Supervisor: Anna Loy; co-supervisor: Mirko Di Febbraro.

Visiting researcher | April-May 2026

Institute for Technology Assessment and Systems Analysis (ITAS), Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Germany. Hosted by Marufa Sultana. Collaboration on European urban wildlife networking and research into the drivers and effects of wildlife feeding in cities.

Visiting researcher | May-December 2025

Urban Wildlife Institute, Lincoln Park Zoo, Chicago, USA.

Urban ecology training, collaboration with the Urban Wildlife Information Network (UWIN), and field monitoring of mammals, bats and pollinators.

UWIN city lead | Campobasso, Italy

Coordination of Campobasso's contribution to the Urban Wildlife Information Network, connecting local monitoring with shared international protocols and objectives.

Master's research traineeship | May 2022-June 2023

Fondazione Edmund Mach, San Michele all'Adige, Italy.

Camera-trap monitoring, vegetation surveys and pellet collection for Alpine mammal community research. Participation in roe deer and red deer captures for GPS collar deployment.

EDUCATION

MSc in Ecobiology | 2020-2023

Sapienza University of Rome, Italy. 110/110 with honours.

Thesis on coexistence and spatiotemporal segregation of red deer, roe deer and chamois in an Alpine mammal community under human disturbance.

BSc in Environmental Sciences | 2017-2020

Sapienza University of Rome, Italy. 110/110 with honours.

Thesis on umbrella species and their effectiveness in conservation.

Erasmus+ study period: Universidad Autonoma de Madrid, Spain, September 2021-January 2022.

Research & engagement

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATION

Vanderlocht, C., et al., including **Limonciello, L.** (2026). Alpine ungulates adjust diel activity to the natural return of wolves amid anthropogenic pressures. *Ecography*, 2026(3), e07988.
<https://doi.org/10.1002/ecog.07988>

SCIENCE COMMUNICATION

Limonciello, L. (2024). Gli ungulati ed il disturbo antropico. *Caccia Alpina*. Article in Italian.

SELECTED CONFERENCE CONTRIBUTIONS

Third National Biodiversity Forum | Naples, 2026

Poster: Spatial and temporal patterns of medium- and large-sized mammals across Italian cities.

International Urban Wildlife Conference | Atlanta, 2025

Oral presentation: Bridging Continents: exploring urban biodiversity in Italian cities, the differences with North America and how Italy can contribute to UWIN.

SCB Italian Chapter | L'Aquila, 2025

Oral presentation: Assessing Italian urban mammal communities: a multi-city and multi-species monitoring approach.

XIII Italian Mammal Congress | Pesche, 2024

Organising committee member and poster presenter. Research on coexistence of Alpine ungulates under human disturbance.

European Congress of Conservation Biology | Bologna, 2024

Presentation: Long-term monitoring of mammals in urban contexts. Student volunteer.

AWARDS

2026: UWIN Travel Scholarship.

2024: Dante and Amalia Molinari Master's Thesis Award, UNCZA.

METHODS & TOOLS

Camera trapping; wildlife monitoring; vegetation surveys; camera-trap image processing and data management; ecological and spatial analysis.

Software: R, QGIS, Timelapse, WildTrax, Git.

OUTREACH & SERVICE

Urban wildlife outreach with schools and the public. Scout leader with AGESCI (since 2018). Science tutoring for school students (2016-2022). Digital skills volunteering with older adults through Fondazione Mondo Digitale (2020-2021).

LANGUAGES

Italian: native. English: C1 reading/listening; B2 writing and spoken interaction; C1 spoken production. Spanish: C1 reading/listening/writing and spoken interaction; B2 spoken production. French: A1-A2, depending on skill.