

*Helen Cortés-Burns*  
Botanist  
Alaska Natural Heritage Program



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**EDUCATION**

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- Graduate            **M.A. Conservation Biology**, University of Texas at Austin, TX (ABD)  
□ Thesis topic: “Systematic Reserve Network Design in the Gulf of Mexico”.  
**MSc. Plant Biodiversity and Taxonomy**, University of Edinburgh & RBGE<sup>(\*)</sup>, U.K. (2000)  
□ Thesis Title: “A taxonomic and biogeographic study of Socotran *Indigofereae* (Fabaceae)”
- Undergraduate      **Honors Degree Plant Sciences**, University of Liverpool, UK (1999)  
**BSc. Biological Sciences**, University of Barcelona, Spain (1999)

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**WORK EXPERIENCE**

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- Botanist**, Alaska Natural Heritage Program, Anchorage, AK (current)  
**Summer Internship**, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Austin HQ, TX (Summer 2004)  
**Teaching Assistant**, University of Texas at Austin, TX (2002-2005).  
**Research Assistant**, Dr. R. K. Jansen laboratory, University of Texas at Austin, TX (2001-2003)  
□ Project: Molecular Phylogeny of Bellflowers (Campanulaceae) using DNA sequencing techniques.  
**Environmental educator**, ECOIMA, Barcelona, Spain (1996-1998)

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**PUBLICATIONS**

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- 2008**                      Cortés-Burns, H., Lapina, I., Klein, S. C., Carlson, M.L., and L. Flagstad. 2008. [Invasive Plant Species Monitoring and Control - Areas impacted by 2004 and 2005 Fires in Interior Alaska: A survey of Alaska BLM lands along the Dalton, Steese, and Taylor Highways \(revisit work\)](#). Report funded by the Bureau of Land Management, Alaska State Office, Anchorage, AK. 162pp.

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**PUBLICATIONS**

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Carlson, M. L., Cortés-Burns, H., Flagstad, L. and R. Lipkin. 2006. [Rare vascular plant species of the North Slope: A review of the taxonomy, distribution and ecology of 33 rare plant taxa that occur in Alaska's North Slope region](#). Final report for the Bureau of Land Management, Northern Field Office, Fairbanks, AK. 133pp.

Carlson, M. L., Lapina, I. V. and H. Cortés-Burns. 2006. [Campbell Tract Weed Inventory - Invasive Non-Native Plant Survey - 2006](#). Alaska Natural Heritage Program (UAA). Report prepared for the U.S. Dept. of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Anchorage, AK. 37pp.

Carlson, M. L., Lipkin, R., Cortés-Burns, H. and I. V. Lapina. 2006. [Stewart River Training Area - Rare Plant Survey - 2006](#). Alaska Natural Heritage Program (UAA). Report prepared for the Alaska Army National Guard, State of Alaska Dept. of Military and Veterans Affairs, Fort Richardson, AK. 37pp.

**2006**

Cortés-Burns, H., Carlson, M. L., Lipkin, R., Flagstad, L. and D. Yokel. 2006. [Rare vascular plant species of the North Slope: A review of the taxonomy, distribution and ecology of 31 rare plant taxa that occur in Alaska's North Slope region](#). Publication for the Bureau of Land Management, Arctic Field Office, Fairbanks, AK. 130pp.

Cortés-Burns, H., and M. L. Carlson. 2006. [BAER Final Report: Invasive plant monitoring following 2004 fires. USFWS National Wildlife Refuges \(Yukon Flats, Kanuti\) - Alaska Region](#). Report for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Alaska Regional Office, Anchorage, AK (October 2006). 25pp.

Cortés-Burns, H., and M. L. Carlson. 2006. [BAER Final Report: Invasive plant monitoring following 2004 fires. USFWS National Wildlife Refuges \(Kenai, Tetlin, Kanuti, Yukon Flats\) - Alaska Region](#). Final report for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Alaska Regional Office, Anchorage, AK (February 2006). 46pp.

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Cortés-Burns, H., Schrire, B. D., Pennington, R. T. & Miller, A.G. 2004. A taxonomic revision of Socotran Indigofereae (Leguminosae-Papilionoideae) with insights into the phylogeographical links of the Socotran Archipelago. *Nordic Journal of Botany*, 22 (6).

**2004 and earlier**

Schrire, B. D., Lavin, M., Barker, N. P., Cortés-Burns, H., von Senger, I. & Kim, J.-H. 2003. Towards a phylogeny of Indigofera (Leguminosae-Papilionoideae): identification of major clades and relative ages. - In B. Klitgaard & A. Bruneau (eds.) *Advances in Legume Systematics*, part 10, pp. 269-302. Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

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**ACADEMIC GRANTS & AWARDS**

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- ❑ SER-Poster Presentation Award, **Canadian Land Reclamation Association**, Canada (2004)
- ❑ Graduate Research Award, **American Society Plant Taxonomists** (2003)
- ❑ Grant-in-Aid-of-Research, **Sigma Xi, The Scientific Research Society** (2003)
- ❑ ESI Graduate Student Summer Fellowship (*Honorable Mention*), **University of Texas at Austin** (2002)
- ❑ The Karling Graduate Award, **The Botanical Society of America** (2002)
- ❑ School of Natural Sciences Scholarship, **University of Texas at Austin** (2001)
- ❑ MSc Publication Award, **RBGE<sup>(\*)</sup>**, UK (2000)
- ❑ **Friends of RBGE<sup>(\*)</sup>** Bursary, **RBGE<sup>(\*)</sup>**, UK (1999)
- ❑ Kirby Johnson Award, **University of Liverpool**, UK (1999)
- ❑ Erasmus/Socrates Scholarship, **European Community & The University of Barcelona**, Spain (1998)

(\*) RBGE: Royal Botanic Gardens of Edinburgh (Scotland).

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**PRESENTATIONS**

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- 2008**
- ❑ **8th Alaska Statewide Invasive Species Conference**, Anchorage, AK (October 2008)
    - ❑ Paper: “Status and changes to the Alaska Exotic Plant Information Clearinghouse (AKEPIC) database”
  - ❑ **Non-native plant species workshop**, Bureau of Land Management - Anchorage Field Office, Anchorage, AK (July 2008)
  - ❑ **Non-Native Plants of Alaska: Taxonomy and Plant Identification Workshop**
  - ❑ **Non-native plant species workshop**, National Park Service - Alaska Regional Office, Anchorage, AK (May 2008)
  - ❑ **Non-Native Plants of Alaska: Taxonomy and Plant Identification Workshop**
  - ❑ **Non-native plant species workshop**, Kenai Peninsula Cooperative Weed Management Area, Soldotna, AK (May 2008)
  - ❑ **Non-Native Plants of Alaska: Taxonomy and Plant Identification Workshop**
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- 2007**
- ❑ **Introduction to Botany community class**, Campbell Creek Science Centre, BLM, Anchorage, AK (August 2007)
    - ❑ Title: “A Naturalist’s Introduction to Flowering Plants”
  - ❑ **Alaska-Yukon-BC Conservation Exchange**, Haines Junction, YK, Canada (May 2007)
    - ❑ Paper: “Plant conservation biology in Alaska: Approaches to rare and non-native plants” [Co-author with M. L. Carlson, Alaska Natural Heritage Program]
  - ❑ **2007 Alaska Rare Plant Forum**, Anchorage, AK (April 2007)
    - ❑ Paper: “Modeling the distributions of rare plants in Southwest Alaska for a preliminary conservation assessment”.
    - ❑ Paper: “Revision of the ecology and distribution of five rare plant taxa from the North Slope: implications for National Petroleum Reserve of Alaska land managers”.

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**PRESENTATIONS**

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- 2006**
- 7th Alaska Statewide Invasive Species Conference**, Anchorage, AK (October, 2006)
    - Poster: “Invasive Plant Surveys: Revisiting 2004 Burns on Wildlife Refuge Lands”
  - 2006 Alaska Rare Plant Forum**, Fairbanks, AK (April 2006)
    - Paper: "Prioritizing places for biodiversity representation using ecological niche models: strengths, limitations, and potential uses in Alaska".
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- 2005**
- 6th Alaska Statewide Invasive Species Conference**, Fairbanks, AK (October, 2005)
    - Paper: “Summary of Burned Area Emergency response, Invasive Plant Surveys”
  - Results of the 2005 Invasive Plants Monitoring in Burned Areas for Fish and Wildlife Service Refuges**, Fairbanks and Soldotna, AK (October-November 2005)
    - Kenai Refuge presentation: “Are fires facilitating the dispersal of invasive plants in Alaska? Results from the 2005 Glacier Creek Fire weed survey”
    - Yukon Flats and Kanuti Refuges presentation: “Are fires acting as dispersal vectors for invasive plants in Alaska? Kanuti and Yukon Flats 2005 weed surveys”
  - Non-native plant species workshop**, University of Alaska, Anchorage, AK (June, 2005)
    - Non-Native Plants of Alaska: Taxonomy and Monitoring Protocols [Co-author with M. L. Carlson and I. Lapina (Alaska Natural Heritage Program) and M. Shephard (US Forest Service)]
  - Society for Ecological Restoration (SER) NW Regional Conference**, Seattle, WA (April, 2005)
    - Paper: “Prioritizing marine sites for conservation: an analysis of the Texas Gulf of Mexico”
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- 2004**
- 16th Annual World Conference on Ecological Restoration (SER)**, Victoria, Canada (2004)
    - Poster: “Prioritizing marine sites for conservation: an analysis of the Northern Gulf of Mexico”
  - 18th Annual Meeting of the Society for Conservation Biology**, New York (2004)
    - Poster: “Prioritizing marine sites for conservation: an analysis of the Northern Gulf of Mexico”
  - 5th Annual Ecological Integration Symposium**, Texas A&M (2004)
    - Poster: “Prioritizing marine sites for conservation: a preliminary analysis of the Northern Gulf of Mexico”
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