

# YA ZHANG

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## EDUCATION

- 2015.10 – present      PhD student, **University of Ulm**, Ulm, Germany.  
2011.09 – 2014.07      Master of Ecology, **Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Garden (XTBG), University of Chinese Academy of Sciences (UCAS)**, Mengla, China.  
2007.09 – 2011.07      Bachelor of Biology, **Anhui Normal University**, Wuhu, China.

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Water transport in xylem of vesselless angiosperms
- Vessel structure and function in woody species
- Cavitation and embolism in woody plants

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2015 – present      **PhD topic: Water transport in xylem of vesselless angiosperms**  
*Advised by Prof. Steven Jansen, Institute for Systematic Botany and Ecology, University of Ulm*
- 2014 – 2015      **Lab assistant in Tree Ring and Environmental Change Group, XTBG, UCAS**  
*Advised by Dr. Fan Zexin, Key Laboratory of Tropical Forest Ecology, XTBG, UCAS*
- Measured anatomical and functional traits in 7 species from Ailao Mountain in Yunnan
  - Investigated drought tolerance in a resurrection plant, *Paraboea rufescens*
- 2012 – 2014      **Master of Ecology thesis: The evolution of vessel anatomy and function in xylem of basal angiosperms.**  
*Advised by Prof. Cao Kunfang, Key Laboratory of Tropical Forest Ecology, XTBG, UCAS*
- Characterized xylem vessels from both anatomical and functional aspects
  - Analyzed the relationship of water-use traits between stem and leaf in 10 basal angiosperms
  - Clarified the evolutionary trends of vessel anatomical traits as well as functional traits
- 2009 – 2011      **Bachelor of Biological Science thesis: Study in nitrite content changes during pickling processes.**  
*Advised by Dr. Zheng Yan, Chinese Medicine Resources Research Center, Anhui Normal University*
- Investigated the nitrite content changes during home-made pickling processes
  - Gave suggestions for food safety in home-made pickles

## PRESENTATIONS

- 06/02/2015      *Evolution of vessel structure and function of basal angiosperms.* Botanical Society of Yunnan. Kunming, Yunnan.
- 16/10/2013      *Xylem structure and function in basal angiosperms.* Botanical Society of China. Nanchang, Jiangxi.

## PUBLICATIONS

- Ya Zhang**, Shijian Yang, Mei Sun and Kunfang Cao. Stomatal traits are evolutionarily associated with vein density in basal angiosperms. *Plant Science Journal*, 2014, 32(4): 315-323. (In Chinese with English abstract)
- Megan K. Bartlett, **Ya Zhang**, Nissa Kreidler, Shanwen Sun, Rico Ardy, Kunfang Cao, and Lawren Sack. Global analysis of plasticity in turgor loss point, a key drought tolerance trait. *Ecology Letters*, 2014, 17(12): 1580-1590.
- Megan K. Bartlett, Christine Scoffoni, Rico Ardy, **Ya Zhang**, Shanwen Sun, Kunfang Cao and Lawren Sack. Rapid determination of comparative drought tolerance traits: using an osmometer to predict turgor loss point. *Methods in Ecology and Evolution*, 2012, 3(5): 880-888.

## HONORS AND AWARDS

- 2012 – 2014 “Merit Student”, University of Chinese Academy of Sciences;  
2011 “Excellent Graduate”, Anhui Normal University;  
2010 “Excellent Student Cadres”, Anhui Normal University;  
National Encouragement Scholarship, National Ministry of Education;  
2008 – 2011 “Merit Student” and Second-class Scholarship, Anhui Normal University.

## LEADERSHIP AND OTHER EXPERIENCE

### 09/2014 – 10/2014 **Assistant Tour Guide**

*Field course organized by Prof. Achim Bräuning from Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg (FAU), Northwest Yunnan*

- Assisted in leading 14 students from FAU on a field course in Northwest Yunnan
- Facilitated academic and logistical planning during the field course

### 07/2012 – 07/2013 **Art and Publicity Member**

*XTBG graduate student union, Mengla*

- Designed posters and publicized activities that graduate student union organized
- Organized a fundraiser to donate supplies to disadvantaged children in Mefen primary school
- Wrote reports about the activities on XTBG website

### 10/2012 **Volunteer of Tour Guide**

*XTBG (National AAAAA Class Scenic Spot), Mengla*

- Guided the tourists, including many foreign visitors, through the XTBG grounds

### 09/2011 – 06/2012 **General Affairs Member**

*XTBG graduate student union, UCAS, Beijing*

- Helped to organize social and educational events for XTBG new graduate students
- Mentored 42 incoming students on both academic and personal matters

### 09/2010 – 12/2010 **Biology Teacher**

*College of Life Sciences, Anhui Normal University, Wuhu*

- Taught biology for five classes in Guangde High School

## SKILLS AND INTERESTS

- Languages: Chinese (native speaker), English (fluent), German (beginner)
- Computer: Proficient in Image J software, SigmaPlot and other statistical softwares
- Interests: stargazing, color pencil drawing, volleyball, frisbee, acting