***Curriculum vitae***

**Personal information**

**Name**: Gavin S. Stark | **E-Mail**: gavinstark89@gmail.com

**Academic Education**

2023 – Present **Post-doctoral fellow**, German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv) Halle-Jena-Leipzig Institute of Biology, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg. **Supervisor**: Prof. Henrique Miguel Pereira (MLU/iDiv).

2022 – 2023 **Post-doctoral fellow**, School of Zoology, Tel- Aviv University.

**Supervisor**: Dr. Ofir Levy (Tel- Aviv University).

2018 – 2022 **PhD. Ecology & Conservation,** School of Zoology, Tel- Aviv University. **Research Subject**: *The importance of microhabitat diversity in extreme environments.* **Supervisor**: Dr. Ofir Levy (Tel- Aviv University).

2016 – 2018 **MSc. Ecology & Environment** (*Magna cum laude*), School of Zoology, Tel- Aviv University. **Research Subject**: *Aspects of animal longevity*. **Supervisor**: Prof. Shai Meiri (Tel- Aviv University).

2014 – 2016 **BSc. Life Science (Biology)**, University of Haifa-Oranim.

**Academic Projects**

2018-2022 – Doctoral Period

**Ecological Projects concerning the effects of climate change on animals living in extreme environments (deserts)**

Leadingprojects: the work included guiding team members (5-10 people) in harsh field conditions while operating scientific equipment such as Drones, Portable Meteorological Stations, Temperature Sensors (iButtons) and Radio Telemetry.

**Developing and designing eco-physiological and behavioural experiments under controlled and field conditions**

Vast knowledge and use of technologies such as: thermal cameras (FLIR), motion sense cameras (Ltl Acorn) and time lapse cameras (WingScapes).

**Developing Bio-physical models and analyzing large datasets (Big Data) using R**

Implementation of models in conservation programs around the Judean Desert near the Dead Sea.

**Working with global and local (Israel) maps using QGIS**

 Implementing maps in published scientific articles.

**Leading international projects**

Guiding cooperation of scientific teams around the world (China, USA, Australia).

**Publishing articles and presenting at conferences**

Publishing articles at prestigious scientific journals (more than a dozen published so far) and presenting them at the largest international conferences concerning ecology and conservation (WCH, GRC, SICB, ECCB).

2016-2018 – Master Period

**Collecting, editing, and analyzing large datasets (Big Data) for macro-ecological projects**

Including analyzing datasets of threatened species and biodiversity.

**Working with global and local (Israel) maps using ARCGIS**

Implementing and editing maps in macroecological projects.

**Working and guiding international teams**

Cooperating on eco-physiological and behavioral projects in Greece, including laboratory experiments in Athens University and field work around the Cyclades.

**Leading and implementing internal project (with a lab in Britain) which led to publication at a prestigious Journal (Global Ecology and Biogeography) and in general media around Britain and the USA (February 2022).**

**Publishing articles and presenting at conferences**

Publishing articles at prestigious scientific journals and presenting them at international (**ICZEGAR, The International Conference on Drylands, Deserts & Desertification, World Congress of Herpetology, Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology (SICB), BioMove Symposium**) and local (**Israeli Society for Evolutionary Biology**, **The Israel Zoological Society, Annual Convention for Science and the Environment in Israel**) conferences.

**Occupational Experience**

**2018-2022** Senior teaching assistant at Introduction to **R** Workshop, Faculty of Life Sciences, Tel Aviv University.

**2016-2018** Research assistant at Prof. Amir Ayali's laboratory (working at a wet lab, conducting experiments and husbandry of model animals) at Tel- Aviv University.

**2017-2018** Teaching assistant at **Biogeography** course (including field trips and student guidance on the Israeli ecology and conservation of animals and plants), Faculty of Life Sciences, School of Zoology, Tel- Aviv University.

**2015-2016** Tutor for B.Sc. students in **Biology**, Department of Biology and Environment, University of Haifa-Oranim.

**2014-2016** Research assistant at Prof. Eran Gefen's laboratory (working at a wet lab, conducting experiments and husbandry of model animals), Department of Biology and Environment, University of Haifa- Oranim.

**Technical Skills**

\* Knowledge and experience in working with **R** (including **RStudio** & **GitHub**) and developing microclimate and biophysical models.

\* Knowledge and experience in working with **ARCGIS** (PRO) & **QGIS** and developing maps for publications in scientific journals.

\* Knowledge and experience in working with **illustrator & photoshop,** advanced knowledge and experience with **Office** programs (**Word, Excel, PowerPoint**) and **overleaf**.

\* Basic knowledge and Experience in developing and designing websites using **Weebly** & **Wix** (see links for examples: <https://starkgavin89.weebly.com/> & <https://gavinstark89.wixsite.com/website>).

\* Reviewer in peer-reviewed journals (e.g., Biological Journal of the Linnean Society, Ecology and Evolution, Theoretical Ecology, BMC Ecology and Evolution, Evolution, Zoo biology, Animal Conservation, New Zealand Journal of Zoology)

\* Languages: Hebrew (mother tongue), English (advanced), Spanish (basic), Japanese (basic).

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**Peer-Reviewed Publications**

**Stark, G**., Ma, L., Zeng, Z. G., Du, W. G., & Levy, O. (2024). State-dependent movement choices of desert lizards: The role of behavioural thermoregulation during summer and winter. *Journal of Thermal Biology*, 103841.

**Stark, G.,** & Schwarz, R. (2024). Rewilding a vanishing taxon–Restoring aquatic ecosystems using amphibians. *Biological Conservation*, 292, 110559.

**Stark, G.**,& Galetti, M. (2024). Rewilding in cold blood: restoring functionality in degraded ecosystems using herbivorous reptiles. *Global Ecology and Conservation*, e02834.

Schwarz, R., **Stark, G.**, Levin, E., Chapple, D. G., & Meiri, S. (2023). Ecophysiological trait variation in desert vs. Mediterranean populations of the gecko *Ptyodactylus guttatus*. *Journal of Zoology*,321(4), 260-277.

**Stark, G.**, Ma, L., Zeng, Z.-G., Du, W.-G., & Levy, O. (2023). Cool shade and not-so-cool shade: How habitat loss may accelerate thermal stress under current and future climate. *Global Change Biology*, 29(22), 6201–6216.

**Stark, G.**, Ma, L., Zeng, Z. G., Du, W. G., & Levy, O. (2022). Rocks and Vegetation Cover Improve Body Condition of Desert Lizards during Both Summer and Winter. *Integrative and Comparative Biology*, 62(4), 1031-1041.

**Stark, G.** (2022).Large and expensive brain comes with a short lifespan: The relationship between brain size and longevity among fish taxa. *Journal of Fish Biology*, 101(1), 92-99.

**Stark, G.**, & Pincheira-Donoso, D. (2022). The Evolution of Brain Size in Ectothermic Tetrapods: Large Brain Mass Trades-Off with Lifespan in Reptiles. *Evolutionary Biology*, 49, 180–188.

Schwarz, R., Dror, L., **Stark, G**., Gefen, E., Kronfeld‐Schor, N., Chapple, D. G., & Meiri, S. (2022). Conserved ecophysiology despite disparate microclimatic conditions in a gecko. *Journal of Experimental Zoology Part A: Ecological and Integrative Physiology*, 337(4), 316-328.

Schwarz, R., **Stark, G**., Antonopolous, A., Itescu, Y., Pafilis, P., Chapple, D. G., & Meiri, S. (2021). Specialist versus generalist at the intraspecific level: functional morphology and substrate preference of *Mediodactylus kotschyi* geckos. *Integrative and Comparative Biology*, 61(1), 62-75.

Pincheira‐Donoso, D., Harvey, L. P., Cotter, S. C., **Stark, G**., Meiri, S., & Hodgson, D. J. (2021). The global macroecology of brood size in amphibians reveals a predisposition of low‐fecundity species to extinction. *Global Ecology and Biogeography*, 30(6), 1299-1310.

**Stark, G**., Pincheira‐Donoso, D., & Meiri, S. (2020). No evidence for the ‘rate‐of‐living’ theory across the tetrapod tree of life. *Global Ecology and Biogeography*, 29(5), 857-884.

**Stark, G**., Schwarz, R., & Meiri, S. (2020). Does nocturnal activity prolong gecko longevity?. *Israel Journal of Ecology and Evolution*, 66(3-4), 231-238.

Schwarz, R., **Stark, G**., & Meiri, S. (2019). A shift in reptile diversity and abundance over the last 25 years. *Israel Journal of Ecology and Evolution*, 65(1-2), 10-20.

**Stark, G**.,David, D., Lewin, A., Meiri, S. (2018). *Acanthodactylus aegyptius* (Egyptian Fringed-fingered Lizard) tail Bifurcation. *Herpetological Reviews*,49(2), 324-325.

**Stark, G**., Karin, T., Itescu, Y., Feldman, A., Meiri, S. (2018). Cold and isolated ectotherms: drivers of reptilian longevity. *Biological Journal of the Linnean Society*, 125(4), 730-740.

**Stark, G**., & Meiri, S. (2018). Cold and dark captivity: Drivers of amphibian longevity. *Global Ecology and Biogeography*, 27(11), 1384-1397.

Submitted manuscripts

Manuscripts in preparation

**Stark, G.,** Pereira, M, H. et al. Towards Climate-Smart Rewilding.

**Stark, G.** SeaWilding - improving functionality in freshwater and marine ecosystems.

**Stark, G**., Ma, L., Zeng, ZG., Du, WG., Levy, O. Thermal constraints among ant colonies living extreme environments.

**Grants, Fellowships and Awards:**

* Full scholarship (3500 USD$) for the 9th World Congress of Herpetology, 5 - 10 January 2020, Dunedin, New Zealand.
* The Smolarz Family Graduate School excellence award to PhD students who excel in research. Won 4,000 shekels. 2021. September 1st, 2021.
* Award from the Adesman Fund for Travel – 400$. August 11th, 2021.
* Winner for Best Presentation for Flash Talk Category in the 58th Zoological Society of Israel, Annual Conference, Steinhardt Museum of Natural History, Tel-Aviv University, Israel. March 13th, 2022.
* Travel award and conference support by the Zoological Society of Israel. Won 1,500 shekels. 20th May 2022.

**Recommendations**: Recommending names and details will be sent upon request.