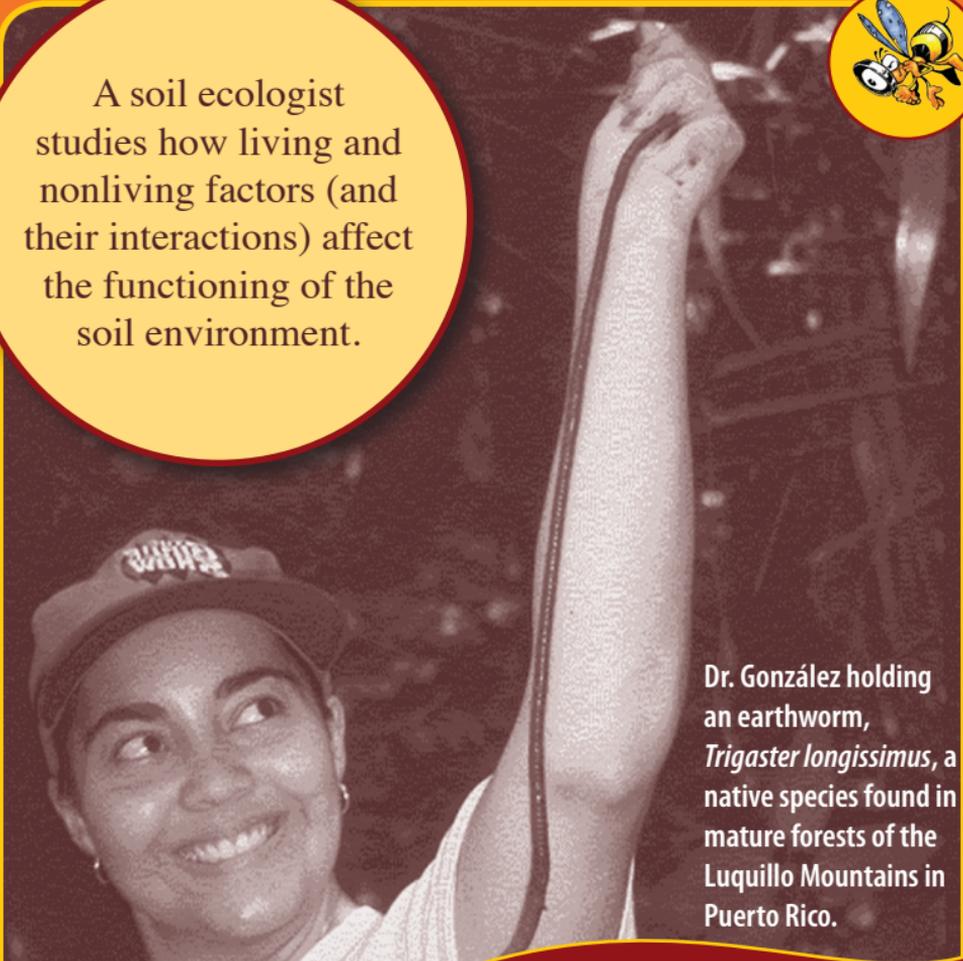


A soil ecologist studies how living and nonliving factors (and their interactions) affect the functioning of the soil environment.

A black and white photograph of Dr. Grizelle González, a woman wearing a baseball cap and a light-colored shirt, smiling and holding a long, dark earthworm vertically in her right hand. The background is a blurred natural setting.

Dr. González holding an earthworm, *Trigaster longissimus*, a native species found in mature forests of the Luquillo Mountains in Puerto Rico.

**Dr. Grizelle González**  
**Soil Ecologist**

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