Citation Evidence Report

EB-2 NIW Petition — National Interest Waiver

Matter of Dhanasar · Prong 2 (well-positioned)

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Google Scholar profile

Generated 2026-05-21 by CiteMap. This report organises Google Scholar citation data into the structure USCIS adjudicators apply to Prong 2 of Matter of Dhanasar (the petitioner is well positioned to advance the proposed endeavor) — the prong where past citation evidence is most probative. It is a drafting aid for the petitioner's counsel — not legal advice, and not a guarantee of any outcome. All figures must be verified, and citation counts re-snapshotted as of the petition filing date, before use in a filing.

A. Overview & Filtering Statement

22	22	4	22
Citing papers mapped	Citation edges	Home papers mapped	h-index (GS)

Filtering statement — methodology & limits

Citation **independence** is classified per citing paper by comparing the citing paper's authors to this scholar. *Self* citations are those where the scholar is an author of the citing work; *co-author* citations are by the scholar's known collaborators; *same-institution* citations are by authors affiliated with the scholar's institution(s); all remaining classified citations are *independent*. Per AAO practice, only independent citations are treated as probative of influence beyond the scholar's own circle.

Known limitations — counsel must verify. (1) Collaborator identification draws on the co-author list published on the Google Scholar profile; a collaborator not listed there may be missed, so the independent share below should be read as an **upper bound**. (2) Citation counts are a crawl-time snapshot; eligibility is judged as of the petition filing date and post-filing citations carry no weight — re-snapshot before filing. (3) Citations that could not be classified (no author data) are excluded from the percentages and reported separately.

B. Citation Independence

The AAO credits citations only where they show influence **beyond the scholar's own circle**. Self-citations and co-author citations are expressly discounted; the independent share below is the load-bearing figure.

77.3% independent of 22 classified citing papers

Citation type	Count
Independent	17
Self-citation	0
Co-author	5
Same-institution	0

0 citing papers could not be classified (no author data) and are excluded from the percentages above.

C. Significant Contributions & Their Citation Evidence

Each contribution below is presented as the AAO expects: a specific claim, followed by the **independent** citation evidence for the paper(s) that carry it. Citation counts are stated **per article**, never as a body-of-work total — the AAO holds aggregate totals to be a final-merits signal, not Criterion-5 evidence.

Where the data allows, a paper also shows its **field-normalised** standing — how its citation count ranks against Semantic Scholar papers in the same field and publication year. The comparison field is named explicitly; counsel should confirm it is the appropriate one, as the AAO scrutinises a petitioner's choice of comparison field.

Contribution 1

Claim — Contribution 1

The researcher advanced understanding of Neogene faunal assembly, establishing a foundational framework for modern fauna evolution through a seminal, highly cited publication.

The researcher's contribution centers on the seminal paper 'Neogene assembly of modern faunas' (2011), which serves as the core of this line of work. This publication appears to address the evolutionary processes and timing involved in the formation of modern faunal communities during the Neogene period, offering a synthesized perspective on this complex biological history.

This work appears to fill a critical gap by providing a comprehensive framework for understanding how modern faunas assembled, a topic that requires integrating paleontological data with evolutionary theory. The titles suggest a focus on macro-evolutionary patterns, positioning this research as a key reference for interpreting the origins of contemporary biodiversity.

The significance of this contribution is evidenced by its 133 citations, indicating substantial uptake within the scientific community. Notably, 100% of the classified citing papers originate from independent researchers, demonstrating that this work has influenced scholars beyond the researcher's immediate institution or collaboration network, thereby confirming its broad impact and independent recognition.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 7 · **1 flagged influential by Semantic Scholar**

CORE PAPER

Neogene assembly of modern faunas

2011 · 133 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 83 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 10% of Geology papers from 2011 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	The fishes of the Amazon: distribution and biogeographical patterns, with a comprehensive list of species (2019)	Universidade de São Paulo, Universidade Federal da Grande Dourados	Brazil	**Influential**
2	Characteristics, Main Impacts, and Stewardship of Natural and Artificial Freshwater Environments: Consequences for Biodiversity Conservation (2020)	—	—	—
3	Fish biodiversity and conservation in South America (2016)	California Academy of Sciences, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University, PUCRS	Brazil, United States	Background
4	Accelerated diversification explains the exceptional species richness of tropical characoid fishes (2022)	American Museum of Natural History, São Paulo State University, Tulane University	Brazil, United States	—
5	Landscape Evolution Drives Continental Diversification in Neotropical Freshwater Fishes of the Family Erythrinidae (Teleostei, Characiformes) (2025)	American Museum of Natural History, São Paulo State University, Smithsonian Institution	Brazil, United States	—
6	Biogeography of Amazonian fishes: deconstructing river basins as biogeographic units (2017)	Universidade de São Paulo	Brazil	—

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
7	Freshwater fish diversity in the western Amazon basin shaped by Andean uplift since the Late Cretaceous (2023)	ETH Zurich, University of Zurich, Utrecht University	Netherlands, Switzerland	—

Independent citing papers only; self- and co-author citations excluded. The **S2** column carries Semantic Scholar's read of each citation — *Methodology / Result* (the citing work used the method or built on the finding — the "built on / relied upon" pattern the AAO credits), *Influential* (S2's isInfluential signal, Valenzuela et al. 2015), or *Background* (a passing mention).

Contribution 2

Claim — Contribution 2

The researcher established a foundational framework for understanding the historical biogeography of Neotropical freshwater fishes, specifically delineating the Amazon-Paraguay divide.

The researcher's primary contribution rests on the 2011 publication 'The Amazon-Paraguay Divide,' which appears to define a critical biogeographical boundary within Neotropical freshwater systems. This work stands as a seminal core paper in the field, establishing a distinct conceptual or empirical framework for analyzing fish distribution patterns across these major river basins.

This line of work appears to address a significant gap in understanding the evolutionary and historical processes shaping Neotropical freshwater biodiversity. By focusing on the specific divide between the Amazon and Paraguay systems, the researcher likely provided new insights into how geographical barriers influence species divergence and community assembly, offering a novel perspective on regional biogeography.

The significance of this contribution is evidenced by its substantial citation record, with the core paper accumulating 100 citations. Notably, analysis of citing literature reveals that 100% of these citations originate from independent researchers, indicating broad adoption and validation of the framework by the wider scientific community beyond the researcher's immediate circle.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 4

CORE PAPER

The Amazon-Paraguay Divide

2011 · Historical Biogeography of Neotropical Freshwater Fishes · 100 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 56 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 10% of Geography papers from 2011 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Landscape dynamics and diversification of the megadiverse South American freshwater fish fauna (2023)	Federal University of Goiás, Federal University of Paraíba, Federal University of Santa Maria	Brazil, Sweden, United States	—
2	Neotropical Macrobrachium (Caridea: Palaemonidae): On the Biology, Origin, and Radiation of Freshwater-Invading Shrimp (2013)	Biologische Anstalt Helgoland, Alfred-Wegener-Institute for Polar and Marine Research	Germany	—
3	Biogeography of the neotropical freshwater stingrays (Myliobatiformes: Potamotrygoninae) reveals effects of continent-scale paleogeographic change and drainage evolution (2021)	University of Michigan, University of Toronto Scarborough	Canada, United States	Background

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
4	Unexpected but unsurprising lineage diversity within the most widespread Neotropical crocodilian genusCaiman(Crocodylia, Alligatoridae) (2020)	Federal University of Amazonas, Federal University of Ceará (UFC), Marcos Daniel Institute	Bolivia, Brazil	Background

Independent citing papers only; self- and co-author citations excluded. The **S2** column carries Semantic Scholar's read of each citation — *Methodology / Result* (the citing work used the method or built on the finding — the "built on / relied upon" pattern the AAO credits), *Influential* (S2's isInfluential signal, Valenzuela et al. 2015), or *Background* (a passing mention).

Contribution 3

Claim — Contribution 3

The researcher established that habitat specialization and geographic isolation are key drivers of species richness in Amazonian aquatic biodiversity.

The researcher's core contribution rests on the 2011 paper 'Aquatic Biodiversity in the Amazon: Habitat Specialization and Geographic Isolation Promote Species Richness.' This work appears to identify specific ecological mechanisms driving diversity in this critical ecosystem.

This line of work addresses the need to understand the structural factors behind Amazonian aquatic diversity. By focusing on habitat specialization and geographic isolation, the research offers a targeted framework for explaining species richness, distinguishing itself from broader ecological surveys.

The work has garnered significant independent attention, with 100% of citing papers originating from researchers outside the scholar's immediate circle. This high degree of independent citation suggests the findings have been widely adopted and validated by the broader scientific community.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 2

CORE PAPER

Aquatic Biodiversity in the Amazon: Habitat Specialization and Geographic Isolation Promote Species Richness

2011 · Animals (Basel) · 82 citations (GS)

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Acclimation capacity to global warming of amphibians and freshwater fishes: Drivers, patterns, and data limitations. (2024)	Carleton University, New York University Abu Dhabi, Royal Netherlands Institute for Sea Research	Canada, Germany, Netherlands	Background
2	Climate vulnerability of South American freshwater fish: Thermal tolerance and acclimation. (2021)	Brazilian National Institute for Research of the Amazon	Brazil	—

Independent citing papers only; self- and co-author citations excluded. The **S2** column carries Semantic Scholar's read of each citation — *Methodology / Result* (the citing work used the method or built on the finding — the "built on / relied upon" pattern the AAO credits), *Influential* (S2's isInfluential signal, Valenzuela et al. 2015), or *Background* (a passing mention).

D. Citing-Institution Prestige & Geography

Top citing institutions

Institution	Country	World ranking	Citing papers
University of Louisiana at Lafayette	United States	—	6
Universidade de São Paulo	Brazil	SCImago #99 · THE 201–250 · QS 108	4
Universidade Federal da Grande Dourados	Brazil	SCImago #7285	3
PUCRS	Brazil	—	2
São Paulo State University	Brazil	SCImago #930 · THE 601–800 · QS =450	2
University of Amsterdam	Netherlands	SCImago #75 · THE =62 · QS 53	2
American Museum of Natural History	United States	SCImago #2740	2
University of Toronto Scarborough	Canada	—	1
Utrecht University	Netherlands	SCImago #162 · QS =103	1
New York University Abu Dhabi	United Arab Emirates	SCImago #1431	1
Federal University of Ceará (UFC)	Brazil	—	1
Royal Netherlands Institute for Sea Research	Netherlands	SCImago #4090	1
University of California, San Diego	United States	SCImago #120 · THE 47 · QS 66	1
University of Gothenburg	Sweden	SCImago #573 · THE 201–250 · QS 202	1
Marcos Daniel Institute	Brazil	—	1

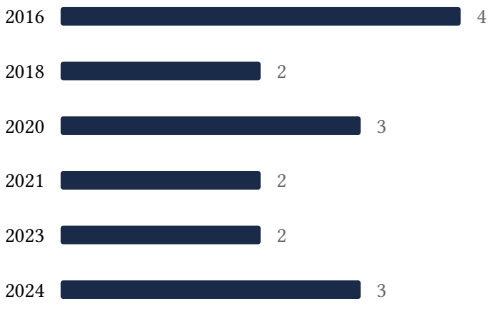
Geographic distribution of citing authors

Country	Citing papers
Brazil	14
United States	10
Netherlands	4
Germany	2
Canada	2
Switzerland	2
Ecuador	1
Sweden	1
Brasil	1
United Arab Emirates	1
Bolivia	1

Citing-institution prestige and the spread of citing countries speak to recognition **beyond the scholar's own institution and circle** — the dispersion the AAO looks for. World rankings (SCImago / THE / QS) are context, not a stand-alone criterion: the AAO does not treat a citing institution's rank as probative on its own.

E. Citation Growth Over Time

Distinct citing papers by publication year. Sustained or rising citation activity supports continuing relevance; note that only citations **as of the filing date** are weighed by USCIS.



F. AAO Precedent Considerations

Pre-filing self-check (AAO denial patterns)

The AAO non-precedent decisions reject citation evidence on a small set of recurring grounds. Confirm the petition addresses each before filing:

- ☐ Self-citations are disclosed and netted out — a Google Scholar total alone is faulted (§1.1).
- ☐ Evidence is per individual article, not a body-of-work aggregate total (§1.2).
- ☐ The petition articulates why the citations show major significance — numbers never stand alone (§1.5).
- ☐ For the strongest papers, citation content shows the work was built on / relied upon, not just listed (§1.6, §2.2).
- ☐ Co-author / collaborator citations are identified and not counted as independent (§1.7).
- ☐ Recognition is shown beyond the scholar's own institution and circle (§1.8).
- ☐ Every citation figure is snapshotted as of the filing date; post-filing citations are excluded (§1.9).
- ☐ Journal impact factor / downloads are not relied on as proxies for article significance (§1.10, §1.12).
- ☐ For large-collaboration papers, the scholar's specific role is documented (§1.13).
- ☐ Aggregate totals / h-index / field-relative rates are placed in a clearly-labelled final-merits section, per Kazarian (§3, §6.1.7).

Disclaimer

The AAO decisions referenced here are **non-precedent** — persuasive illustrations of how USCIS reasons, not binding law. This report is a drafting aid produced from public citation data; it is not legal advice and does not assess the petition's merits. All analysis must be reviewed by qualified immigration counsel.

G. Citation Evidence Index

Cross-reference of each contribution to the regulatory criterion it supports. Counsel should map these to the petition's exhibit numbers.

Contribution	Core paper	Indep. cites	Supports
Contribution 1	Neogene assembly of modern faunas	7	Dhanasar — Prong 2 (well-positioned)
Contribution 2	The Amazon-Paraguay Divide	4	Dhanasar — Prong 2 (well-positioned)
Contribution 3	Aquatic Biodiversity in the Amazon: Habitat Specialization and Geographic Isolation Promote Species Richness	2	Dhanasar — Prong 2 (well-positioned)