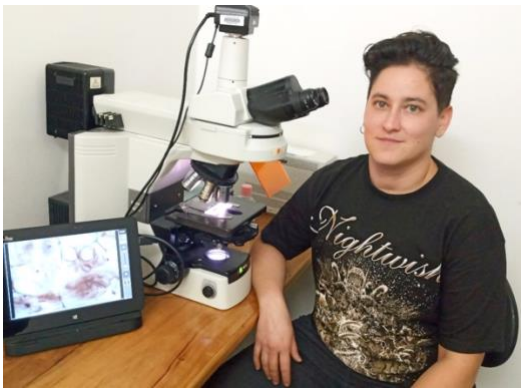


Giovanni C. Nunes

Giovanni C. Nunes is currently a PhD student at the Universidad Nacional del Comahue (Bariloche, Argentina) and a CONICET doctoral fellow working at the Paleobotany Laboratory of the Paleontological Museum Egidio Feruglio (Trelew, Argentina), advised by Dr. Ignacio Escapa (MEF-CONICET) and Dr. Juan García Massini (CRILAR). After graduating with a BS in Biology from the Universidad Nacional de la Patagonia (Trelew, Argentina), he started working on structurally preserved plant-fungal interactions from Jurassic geothermal deposits of the Deseado Massif. His thesis research has so far documented different interactions with conifers of the order Araucariales, including the presence of AM fungi associated with root nodules and sooty molds associated with leafy twigs, indicating that multiple ecological relationships that are present in living representatives of this plant group were already present by the Jurassic and remained stable for at least 150 million years. With this award, Giovanni will expand the focus of his research, exploring the diversity of epiphyllous ascomycetes associated with other gymnosperms during the Cretaceous, in a collaborative project with Dr. Fabiany Herrera (Field Museum).