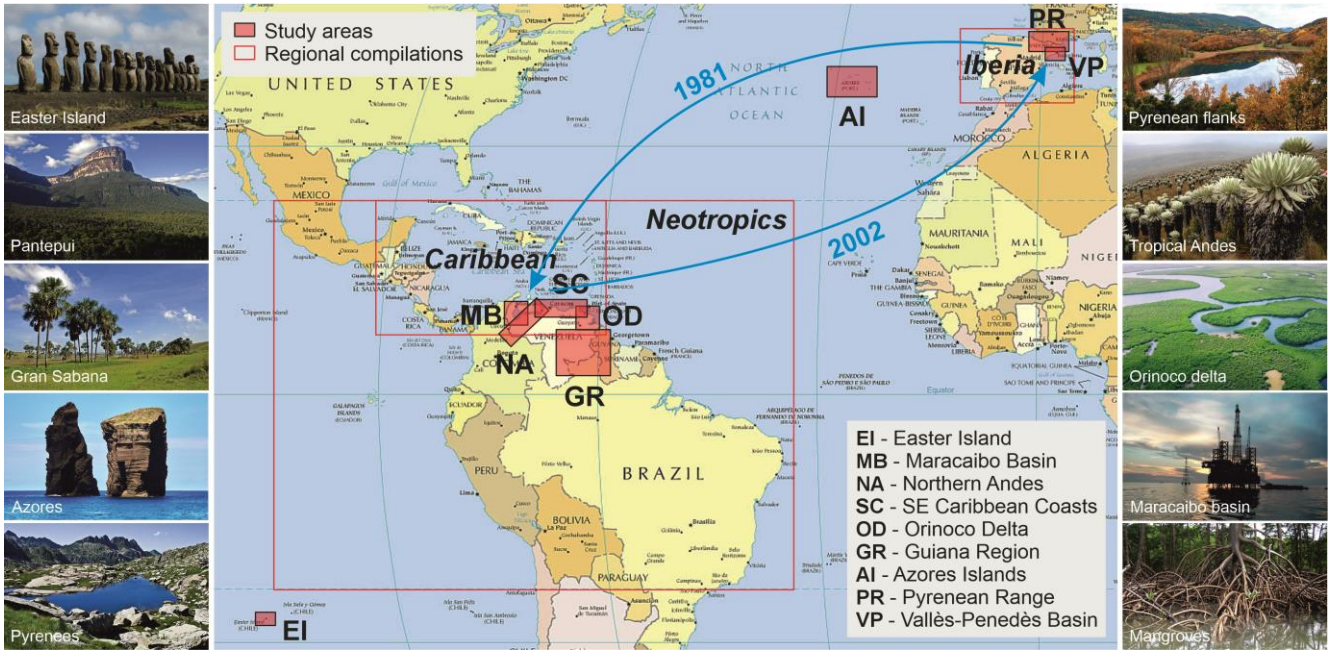
CAREER SUMMARY

1. BIOGRAPHY

- Valentí Rull del Castillo
- Born in Ribes de Freser, Catalonia, Spain (1956)
- Licenciate in Biological Sciences. University of Barcelona (UB), Spain (1981)
- Moved to Venezuela (1981), at age 25 (see map)
- MS (1985) and PhD (1991) in Ecology, specialty in Paleoecology. Venezuelan Institute for Scientific Research (IVIC)
- Biostratigrapher (Palynologist). Petróleos de Venezuela (PDVSA) (1990-2002)
- Came back to Spain (2002), at age 46
- Ramón y Cajal Researcher (2003-2004) and Associate Professor (2004-2008). Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB), Spain (2003-2004)
- Senior Researcher. Spanish National Research Council (CSIC) (2008-2026)
- Retirement (CSIC) in January 2026, at age 70
- Honorary Associate Researcher. Catalan Institute of Paleontology (ICP-UAB) (2023-present)
- Website *https://www.vrull.net/*



2. MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

- Featured in the *Stanford ranking* of highly influential scientists, within the top 0.5% paleontologists and the top 10 palynologists
- Not interested in honors, awards or similar recognitions

3. MAIN APPOINTMENTS

- Director of the Botanical Institute of Barcelona (CSIC)
- Member of the Scientific Evaluation Committee of ERA-NET Biodiversa (EU FP7)
- Member of the Scientific Evaluation Committee of Marie Curie Actions (EU FP7)
- Coordinator of *PAGES* (Past Global Changes) for Venezuela
- Editor-in-Chief of 2 (one as founding editor) and Associate Editor of 6 international journals

4. TEACHING

- Undergraduate courses: Botany (UAB)
- Postgraduate courses: Palynology (UAB, PDVSA), Paleoecology (CSIC, UAB, UB), Biostratigraphy (PDVSA)
- Students advised: 6 graduate, 11 MS, 6 PhD and 2 postdocs (UAB, UB, CSIC, PDVSA)

5. RESEARCH PROJECTS

- Participation in 40 national and international projects, 14 as principal investigator

6. RESEARCH INTERESTS

6.1. General

- Cenozoic plant ecology, evolution and biogeography

6.2. Specific topics

- Biotic responses to environmental change, from organisms to biomes
- Complex environmental-human-ecological dynamics
- Microrefugia and macrorefugia
- Holistic ecosystem recconstruction using plant and animal fossils
- Influence of Cenozoic climates and tectonics on present biodiversity and biogeograpy
- Origin of tropical biodiversity and the latitudinal biodiversity gradient
- Origin and evolution of tropical mangroves
- Historical biogeography of iconc plants: *Mauritia* and *Cannabis*
- Paleoecology of pristine tropical areas
- Plant extinction and biotic turnover across characteristic geological boundaries
- Biostratigraphy and ecostratigraphy applied to oil exploration
- Paleoecology, human settlement and anthropization of remote oceanic islands
- Mountain paleocology and anthropization trends and patterns
- Standard high-resolution Lateglacial and Holocene sedimentary sections
- Paleoecological potential of chrysophyte cysts

6.3. Methodological matters

- Palynological sampling and counting methods
- Modern analog studies applied to paleoecological interpretation
- High-impact ecostratigraphical methods in exploration biostratigraphy

6.4. Theoretical and conceptual issues

- The time-continuum approach
- Ecology, paleoecology and the missing link
- Disequilibrium ecological dynamics
- The evolutionary time arrow
- The Anthropocene
- Ecological hypothesis testing using paleoecology
- Paleoecology and biodiversity/ecosystem conservation
- Evolutionary laws and predictability
- Reductionism and biological uniqueness

6.5. Science and society

- The future of humankind
- Conservation and sustainable development
- Sixth extinction
- History of science
- Scientific research and its applications
- Free science and slow science

7. STUDY AREAS (see map)

7.1. Neotropics (American tropics)
- Northern Andes
- Orinoco basin and delta
- Highlands (Pantepui) and midlands (Gran Sabana) of the Guiana region
- Maracaibo basin
- The Caribbean Sea as a whole (mangrove meta-analyses)
- The Neotropics as a whole (biodiversity meta-analyses)

7.2. Oceanic islands
- Rapa Nui (Easter Island) (Pacific Ocean)
- Azores Islands (Atlantic Ocean)

7.3. Iberian Peninsula
- Pyrenees and pre-Pyrenees
- Vallès-Penedès basin
- The Iberian Peninsula as a whole (*Cannabis* meta-analyses)

8. PUBLICATION RECORD (1984-2025)

15 books – 7 authored and 8 edited (single-first author, SFA, in 12; 80%)
316 papers – 207 in *JCR* journals and 109 in non-*JCR* journals/edited books/prodeedings (SFA in 234; 74%)

8.3. Major book publishers
- *Springer Nature*
- *Elsevier*
- *Academic Press*

8.4. Selected high-impact journals
- *Nature*
- *Science*
- *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences USA*
- *Trends in Ecology and Evolution*
- *Biological Reviews*
- *Earth-Science Reviews*
- *Communications Earth & Environment*
- *Global Change Biology*
- *Science of the Total Environment*
- *Global Ecology and Biogeography*
- *EMBO Reports*