

# Evolution and Biodiversity

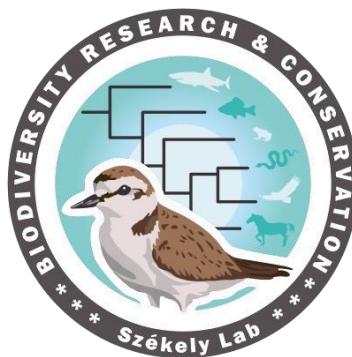
## PhD Conference

8-11 January 2026

Debrecen, Hungary

### Provisional Programme

5 January 2026



## Organizers:

Prof Tamás Székely (University of Debrecen)  
Sofia Rizzi (University of Debrecen)  
Karola Szemán (University of Debrecen)  
Mihály Gábor Mándi (University of Debrecen)

## Sponsors:



## Thursday 8 January 2026

8:00 – 8:50	<b>Registration</b>
<i>Chair:</i>	
<i>Mentors:</i>	
9:00 – 9:30	<b>Welcome &amp; Opening Remarks - Tamás Székely, Zoltán Varga</b>
9:30 – 10:15	<b>Oliver Krüger</b> Re-colonisation of an apex predator promotes biodiversity in a raptor guild
10:15-10:30	<b>Noémi Bujnóczki</b> Coordination analysis between Collared flycatcher pairs
10:30-10:45	<b>Andreas Rimoldi</b> Dichromatism evolution in polyandrous birds is related to sexual selection
10:45-11:15	<b>Coffee break</b>
11:15-12:00	<b>Robert Waterhouse</b> Arthropod comparative evolutionary and functional genomics
12:00-12:15	<b>Sod-Erdene Byambadash</b> Conservation genomics of Mongolian saiga antelope ( <i>Saiga tatarica mongolica</i> )
12:15-12:30	<b>Halvina G. Saiya</b> The effects of land-use dynamics on avian phylogenetic diversity across an island
12:30-12:45	<b>Jelena Marinkov</b> Genetic structure on the fragmented steppes: conservation genomics of Colchicum
12:45 – 13:45	<b>Lunch break</b>
<i>Chair:</i>	
<i>Mentors:</i>	
13:45 – 14:30	<b>Robert Thomson</b> TBA
14:30-14:45	<b>Martin Břečka</b> Changing lives and adaptations of Arctic birds
14:45-15:00	<b>Mariem Belkadhi</b> Divergence in reproductive investment and nest success in Whiskered terns ( <i>Chlidonias hybrida</i> )
15:00-15:15	<b>Fanni Adina Fébert</b> Coexistence maintained by sexual interactions
15:15-15:45	<b>Coffee break</b>
<i>Chair:</i>	
<i>Mentors:</i>	
15:45-16:00	<b>Levente Őri</b> IGF-1: Hormone profile or growth roadmap?
16:00-16:15	<b>Ahmed Awad</b> Estimating population size of breeding waterbirds in Central Asia using ecological niche modelling
16:15-16:30	<b>Judit Veres-Szászka</b> Resilience in a changing world – A comparative study on population trends of Romanian common breeding birds
16:30-16:45	<b>Péter Hegedűs</b> Links between song diversity and IGF-1 levels in the Collared flycatcher ( <i>Ficedula albicollis</i> )
19:00-22:00	<b>Dinner in Flaska Restaurant</b>
20:00-21:00	<b>Talk of Oliver Krüger: One boat trip to change it all: The evolution of Charles Darwin (Flaska Restaurant)</b>

## Friday 9 January 2026

<i>Chair:</i> <i>Mentors:</i>	
9:00 – 9:45	<b>Bethan Littleford-Colquhoun</b> Food, function, and fitness: integrating diet, nutrition, and gut microbiomes in wild animals
9:45 – 10:00	<b>Mihály Gábor Mándi</b> Parental care drives the evolution of brain size across vertebrates
10:00-10:15	<b>Oscar G. Miranda</b> From cells to societies: how gamete asymmetry shapes macroevolutionary patterns in birds
10:15-10:30	<b>Endre Zoltán Szarka</b> Interspecific relationship between relative brain mass, relative neuron density and blood glucose concentration in birds and mammals
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee break
<i>Chair:</i> <i>Mentors:</i>	
11:00-11:45	<b>Eva B. Thorstad</b> One-quarter of freshwater fauna is threatened with extinction
11:45-12:00	<b>Muuz Gebru Sahle</b> Diversity and antimicrobial resistance profiles of <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> in meat and abattoir environments in Northern Ethiopia
12:00-12:15	<b>Subham Das</b> Application of LAB (Lactic Acid Bacteria) consortium collected from fish gut for decontamination of some pollutants
12:15 – 12:30	<b>Lisa Amalia</b> The Evolution and endemism of <i>Neolissochilus thienemanni</i> fish in Lake Toba, Indonesia
12:30 – 13:45	Lunch break
<i>Chair:</i> <i>Mentors:</i>	
13:45 – 14:30	<b>Jácint Tökölgyi</b> The role of environmental microorganisms in maintaining animal health and fitness
14:30-14:45	<b>Dorina Nagy</b> Thermal springs as gateways for invasion: physiology of <i>Vallisneria australis</i> in Lake Hévíz
14:45-15:00	<b>Diriba Shanko</b> Tracing the origin of a Central European, inland population of a Maritime sedge, <i>Carex extensa</i> (Cyperaceae)
15:00-15:15	<b>Shikha Jose</b> A study on the allelopathic effects of <i>Samanea saman</i> (Jacq.) Merr. with special reference to identification and characterization of the bioactive principles
15:15 – 15:45	Coffee break
<i>Chair:</i> <i>Mentors:</i>	
15:45-16:00	<b>Amna Atia</b> In vitro inhibitory effect of <i>Ambrosia maritima</i> (Asteraceae) and <i>Cymbopogon schenanthus</i> (Gramineae) extracts on the survival of <i>Leishmania donovani</i>

16:00-16:15	<b>Daniela Isabel Gutiérrez Perez</b> Sustainable management of metal-contaminated soils: effects of amendments on plant uptake and soil quality
16:15-16:30	<b>Zeynab Bayat-Mehdi Hassanshahian</b> Decrease the marine oil pollution by crude oil-degrading bacteria isolated from some Mussels collected at the Persian Gulf
16:30-16:45	<b>Stewart Ajele</b> Assessment of air Pollution Tolerance Index (APTI) of kind of Rosa species in Debrecen city, Hungary
16:45-17:30	<b>Brett Sandercock</b> Division of land and biodiversity
19:00-22:00	<b>Dinner in Flaska Restaurant</b>

## Saturday 10 January 2026

<i>Chair:</i>	
<i>Mentors:</i>	
9:00 – 9:45	<b>András Liker</b> Behavioural changes in response to urbanization in birds
9:45-10:00	<b>Chris Sparkes</b> Complex associations between life history and ecology may suggest stage-level evolutionary differences for incubation and fledging durations amongst shorebirds
10:00-10:15	<b>Guillaume Dillenseger</b> Latitude explains nest defence behaviour better than predation risk, but in different ways between hemispheres
10:15-10:30	<b>Peter Jan D. de Vera</b> Breeding habitat and anthropogenic effects influence nest predation in shorebirds
10:30 – 11:00	<b>Coffee break</b>
<i>Chair:</i>	
<i>Mentors:</i>	
11:00-11:15	<b>Chenjing Huang (online)</b> TBA
11:15-11:30	<b>Dong-Yun Lee (online)</b> Understanding vocal communication in the Kentish plover ( <i>Anarhynchus alexandrinus</i> ) from vocal repertoires to behavioral strategies
11:30-11:45	<b>Saltanat Saduakas (online)</b> Rapid shift of a ground nesting shorebird from natural grasslands to agricultural habitats
11:45-12:30	<b>Vojtěch Kubelka</b> Animal migrations in a changing world: still advantageous strategy or maladaptive behaviour?
12:30 – 13:45	<b>Lunch break</b>
<i>Chair:</i>	
<i>Mentors:</i>	
13:45-14:00	<b>Eszter Aletta Víg</b> Monitoring shorebird breeding and development at the Kliphoek Saltpans
14:00-14:15	<b>Wondimu Ayano</b> Geographic variation in sexual size dimorphism and adult sex ratios in shorebirds
14:15-14:30	<b>Deeksha Natraj</b> Environmental drivers of incubation routine in a sex-role reversed shorebird

14:30-15:00	<b>Coffee break</b>
<i>Chair:</i>	
<i>Mentors:</i>	
15:00-15:10	<b>Veronika Švestková (speed talk)</b> Monitoring of Northern lapwing breeding grounds in Czechia: results of a citizen science project
15:10-15:20	<b>Phyllis von Saucken (speed talk)</b> Drivers of increasing nest predation in birds: a global synthesis
15:20-15:30	<b>Anna Marie Borková (speed talk)</b> Interactions among shorebirds, rodents and predators: the alternative prey hypothesis in the Arctic
15:30-15:40	<b>Agnese Cecchin (speed talk)</b> Seasonal variation in the length of incubation period of a ground nesting shorebird
15:40-15:50	<b>Ledi Selgjekaj (speed talk)</b> Phylogenetic and spatial drivers of changes in European waterbirds
15:50-16:00	Closing
19:00-22:00	<b>Dinner in Flaska Restaurant</b>

## Sunday 11 January 2026 – excursion

Departure: 8:00 CET from DAB székház (conference venue)

Arrival: after 16:00 to DAB székház (conference venue)