

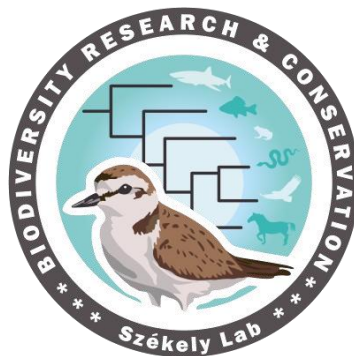
Evolution and Biodiversity PhD Conference

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:



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HUN-REN
Hungarian Research Network



Thursday 8 January 2026

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

Friday 9 January 2026

<i>Chair:</i>	
<i>Mentors:</i>	
9:00 – 9:45	Bethan Littleford-Colquhoun Food, function, and fitness: integrating diet, nutrition, and gut microbiomes in wild animals
9:45 – 10:00	Mihály Gábor Mándi Parental care drives the evolution of brain size across vertebrates
10:00-10:15	Oscar G. Miranda From cells to societies: how gamete asymmetry shapes macroevolutionary patterns in birds
10:15-10:30	Endre Zoltán Szarka 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	Eva B. Thorstad One-quarter of freshwater fauna is threatened with extinction
11:45-12:00	Muuz Gebru Sahle Diversity and antimicrobial resistance profiles of <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> in meat and abattoir environments in Northern Ethiopia
12:00-12:15	Subham Das Application of LAB (Lactic Acid Bacteria) consortium collected from fish gut for decontamination of some pollutants
12:15 – 12:30	Lisa Amalia 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	Jácint Tökölyi The role of environmental microorganisms in maintaining animal health and fitness
14:30-14:45	Dorina Nagy Thermal springs as gateways for invasion: physiology of <i>Vallisneria australis</i> in Lake Hévíz
14:45-15:00	Diriba Shanko Tracing the origin of a Central European, inland population of a Maritime sedge, <i>Carex extensa</i> (Cyperaceae)
15:00-15:15	Shikha Jose 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	Amna Atia 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	Daniela Isabel Gutiérrez Perez Sustainable management of metal-contaminated soils: effects of amendments on plant uptake and soil quality
16:15-16:30	Zeynab Bayat-Mehdi Hassanshahian Decrease the marine oil pollution by crude oil-degrading bacteria isolated from some Mussels collected at the Persian Gulf
16:30-16:45	Stewart Ajele Assessment of air Pollution Tolerance Index (APTI) of kind of Rosa species in Debrecen city, Hungary
16:45-17:30	Brett Sandercock Division of land and biodiversity
19:00-22:00	Dinner in Flaska Restaurant

Saturday 10 January 2026

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

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

Sunday 11 January 2026 – excursion

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

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