

Olena Kudlai

CONTACT INFORMATION

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https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Olena_Kudlai
<https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=vIN3OJoAAAAJ&hl=en>

EDUCATION AND ACADEMIC DEGREE

2007 – 2011 Doctor of Science (Ph.D.), specialisation: Parasitology, helminthology.
Thesis: “*Trematode fauna of gastropods from water bodies in Northern Priazovye, Ukraine*”, supervisor – dr. V.V. Kornyushin.
Department of Parasitology, I.I. Schmalhausen Institute of Zoology of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, Kyiv, Ukraine.

2006– 2007 Master of Science (M.Sc.) in Biology
Thesis: “Molluscs of the ecotone systems of Priazovye, Ukraine”
Department of Ecology, Biodiversity and Taxonomy, Melitopol State Pedagogical University, Melitopol, Ukraine.

2005 – 2006 Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) in Biology.
Thesis: “Molluscs of the Molochny estuary and the adjacent part of the Azov Sea”.
Department of Ecology, Biodiversity and Taxonomy, Melitopol State Pedagogical University, Melitopol, Ukraine.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2021–2024 **Extraordinary Senior Lecturer**
(Water Research Group, Unit for Environmental Sciences and Management, Potchefstroom Campus, North-West University, South Africa)

2020 – until now **Senior Researcher**
(P. B. Šivickis Laboratory of Parasitology, Institute of Ecology, Nature Research Centre)

2016 – 2020 **Researcher**
(P. B. Šivickis Laboratory of Parasitology, Institute of Ecology, Nature Research Centre)

2016 – 2019 **Postdoctoral Fellow**
(Water Research Group, Unit for Environmental Sciences and Management, Potchefstroom Campus, North-West University, South Africa)

2015 – 2016 **Postdoctoral Fellow**
(Laboratory of Helminthology, Institute of Parasitology, Biology Centre, Czech Academy of Sciences, České Budějovice, Czech Republic)

2013 – 2015 **Postdoctoral Fellow**
(P. B. Šivickis Laboratory of Parasitology, Institute of Ecology, Nature Research Centre)

2012 – 2013 **Junior Researcher**
(Department of Parasitology, I. I. Schmalhausen Institute of Zoology NAS of Ukraine, Kyiv, Ukraine)

- 2010 – 2012 **Laboratory Engineer**
(Department of Parasitology, I. I. Schmalhausen Institute of Zoology NAS of Ukraine, Kyiv, Ukraine)
- 2007 – 2010 **PhD student**
(Department of Parasitology, I. I. Schmalhausen Institute of Zoology NAS of Ukraine, Kyiv, Ukraine)

RESEARCH INTERESTS

My research is in the field of molecular and traditional systematics, host specificity, distribution and life cycles of parasites of wild animals. The main research interests are:

1. Systematics, phylogeny, biology and distribution of helminths (primarily trematodes) of wild animals.
2. Elucidation of the roles of marine and freshwater molluscs in trematode transmission.
3. Morphological and molecular approaches in delineation and identification of species of parasites.
4. Interactions between parasites and their hosts and the evolution of complex life cycles.

PUBLICATIONS (LAST 5 YEARS)

Scientific articles published in journals (books), indexed in „Clarivate Analytics Web of Science“ database (with citation index):

1. Pantoja C., **Kudlai O.** 2022. Hemiurid trematodes (Digenea: Hemiuridae) from marine fishes off the coast of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, with novel molecular data. *Animals*, 12: art. no. 3355. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ani12233355>
2. Pantoja C., Telles B., Pascoal F., Luque J.L., **Kudlai O.** 2022. Digenean trematodes infecting the frigate tuna *Auxis thazard* (Scombriformes: Scombridae) off the Rio de Janeiro coast, Brazil, including molecular data. *Parasite*, 29: art. no. 44. <https://doi.org/10.1051/parasite/2022044>
3. Achatz T.J., Martens J.R., Kudlai O., Junker K., Boe N.W., Tkach V.V. 2022. Discovery of a new genus of diplostomids (Digenea: Diplostomoidea) from Nile crocodiles (*Crocodylus niloticus*) in South Africa and an updated key to diplostomid genera. *Journal of Parasitology*, 108: 453–466. <https://doi.org/10.1645/22-23>
4. Faltýnková A., **Kudlai O.**, Salganskij O.O., Korol E.M., Kuzmina T.A. 2022. Trematodes from Antarctic teleost fishes off Argentine Islands, West Antarctica: molecular and morphological examination data. *Systematic Parasitology*, 99: 491–523. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11230-022-10041-9>
5. Uhrovič D., Oros M., Kuchta R., **Kudlai O.**, Scholz T. 2022. *Archigetes* Leuckart, 1878 (Cestoda: Caryophyllidea): diversity of enigmatic fish tapeworms with monoxenic life cycles. *Parasite*, 29, art. no. 6. <https://doi.org/10.1051/parasite/2022002>
6. Faltýnková A., **Kudlai O.**, Pantoja C., Yakovleva G., Lebedeva D. 2022. Another plea for ‘best practice’ in molecular approaches to trematode systematics: *Diplostomum* sp. clade Q identified as *Diplostomum baeri* Dubois, 1937 in Europe. *Parasitology*, 149: 503–518. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0031182021002092>
7. Uhrovič D., Oros M., Reyda F., **Kudlai O.**, Scholz T. 2021. Redescription of *Biacetabulum giganteum* Hunter, 1929 (Cestoda: Caryophyllidea), description of two new, closely related species from suckers (Catostomidae) in North America, and a critical review of host specificity of species of *Biacetabulum* Hunter, 1927. *Systematics and Biodiversity*, 19: 1062–1079. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14772000.2021.1970649>
8. Pantoja C., Faltýnková A., O’Dwyer K., Jouet D., Skírnisson K., **Kudlai O.** 2021. Diversity of echinostomes (Digenea: Echinostomatidae) in their snail hosts in high latitudes. *Parasite*, 28: art. no. 59. <https://doi.org/10.1051/parasite/2021054>

9. Uhrovič, D., Oros, M., **Kudlai, O.**, Choudhury, A., & Scholz, T. (2021). Molecular evidence of three closely related species of *Biacetabulum* Hunter, 1927 (Cestoda: Caryophyllidea): a case of recent speciation in different fish hosts (Catostomidae)? *Parasitology*, 148: 1040–1056. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0031182021000743>
10. Uhrovič D., Scholz T., **Kudlai O.**, Oros M. 2021. Disentangling taxonomy of *Biacetabulum* (Cestoda, Caryophyllidea), parasites of catostomid fishes in North America: proposal of *Megancestus* gen. n. to accommodate *B. carpiodi*. *Parasitology Research*, 120: 1993–2001. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00436-021-07188-7>
11. **Kudlai O.**, Pantoja C., O'Dwyer K., Jouet D., Skírnisson K., Faltýnková A. 2021. Diversity of *Plagiorchis* (Trematoda: Digenea) in high latitudes: Species composition and snail host spectrum revealed by integrative taxonomy. *Journal of Zoological Systematics and Evolutionary Research*, 59: 937–962. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jzs.12469>
12. Vermaak A., Smit N. J., **Kudlai O.** 2021. Molecular and morphological characterisation of the metacercariae of two species of *Cardiocephaloides* (Digenea: Strigeidae) infecting endemic South African klipfish (Perciformes: Clinidae). *Folia Parasitologica*, 007. <https://doi.org/10.14411/fp.2021.007>
13. Faltýnková A., Pantoja C., Skírnisson K., **Kudlai O.** 2020. Unexpected diversity in northern Europe: trematodes from salmonid fishes in Iceland with two new species of *Crepidostomum* Braun, 1900. *Parasitology Research*, 119: 2439–2462. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00436-020-06724-1>
14. Schwelm J., **Kudlai O.**, Smit N.J, Selbach C., Sures B. 2020. High parasite diversity in a neglected host: Larval trematodes of *Bithynia tentaculata* in Central Europe. *Journal of Helminthology*, 94, e120, 1–23. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0022149X19001093>
15. Hoogendoorn C., Smit N.J., **Kudlai O.** 2020. Resolution of the identity of three species of *Diplostomum* (Digenea: Diplostomoidea) parasitizing freshwater fishes in South Africa, combining molecular and morphological evidence. *International Journal for Parasitology: Parasites and Wildlife*, 11: 50–61. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijppaw.2019.12.003>
16. Svitin R., Truter M., **Kudlai O.**, Smit N., du Preez L. 2019. Novel information on the morphology, phylogeny and distribution of camallanid nematodes from marine and freshwater hosts in South Africa, including the description of *Camallanus sodwanaensis* n. sp. *International Journal for Parasitology: Parasites and Wildlife*, 10: 263–273. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijppaw.2019.09.007>
17. Greben O., **Kudlai O.**, Korniyushin V.V. 2019. The intermediate hosts of *Wardium cirrosa* (Krabbe, 1869) Spassky, 1961 (Cestoda, Cyclophyllidea, Aploparaksidae) in Ukraine. *Parasitology Research*, 118: 3129–3137. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00436-019-06453-0>
18. Lisitsyna O.I., **Kudlai O.**, Cribb T., Smit N. 2019. Three new species of acanthocephalans (Palaeacanthocephala) from marine fishes collected off the East Coast of South Africa. *Folia Parasitologica*, 12. <https://doi.org/10.14411/fp.2019.012>
19. Hoogendoorn C., Smit N.J., **Kudlai O.** 2019. Molecular and morphological characterisation of four diplostomid metacercariae infecting *Tilapia sparrmanii* (Perciformes: Cichlidae) in the North-West Province, South Africa. *Parasitology Research*, 118: 1403–1416. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00436-019-06285-y>
20. Lisitsyna O.I., **Kudlai O.**, Spraker T.R., Tkach V.V, Smales L.R., Kuzmina T.A. 2019. Morphological and molecular evidence for synonymy of *Corynosoma obtuscens* Lincicome, 1943 with *Corynosoma australe* Johnston, 1937 (Acanthocephala: Polymorphidae). *Systematic Parasitology*, 96: 95–110. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11230-018-9830-0>
21. Kuzmina T.A., Spraker T.R., **Kudlai O.**, Lisitsyna O.I, Zabludovskaja S.O., Karbowskiak G., Fontaine C., Kuchta R. 2018. Metazoan parasites of California sea lions (*Zalophus californianus*): A new data and review. *International Journal for Parasitology: Parasites and Wildlife*, 7: 326–334. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijppaw.2018.09.001>
22. Kuzmina T.A., Tkach V.V., Spraker T.R., Lyons E.T., **Kudlai O.** 2018. Digeneans of northern fur seals *Callorhinus ursinus* (Pinnipedia: Otariidae) from five subpopulations on

St. Paul Island, Alaska. *Parasitology Research*, 117:1079–1086.
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s00436-018-5784-z>

Scientific articles published in journals (books), indexed in „Clarivate Analytics Web of Science“ database (without citation index):

1. Lisitsyna O.I., **Kudlai O.**, Spraker T.R., Kuzmina T.A. 2018. New records on acanthocephalans from California sea lions *Zalophus californianus* (Pinnipedia, Otariidae) from California, USA. *Vestnik zoologii*, 52: 181–192.

Other reviewed scientific publications (books, books' chapters, collections of articles, articles, textbooks and etc.):

1. **Kudlai O.**, Scholz T., Smit N. 2018. Trematoda. In (Eds) Scholz T., Vanhove M.P.M., Smit N., Jayasundera Z. & Gelnar M. A. Guide to the Parasites of African Freshwater Fishes, ABC Taxa, Volume 18, pp. 245–268.

PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS

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| 2022 – 2025 | <p>Project leader
 Title: “Reviving fish parasitology in Lithuania: assessing the current helminth diversity in fish and the impact of non-native fish in Lithuanian freshwaters”
 Research Council of Lithuania, Project S-MIP-22-53.</p> |
| 2020 – 2022 | <p>Project leader
 Title: „Biodiversity assessment of the Brazilian Atlantic Forest coastal waters: Species richness and genetic variation of marine parasites and their fish hosts“
 Research Council of Lithuania, 09.3.3-LMT-K-712-19-0182.
 https://gamtostyrimai.lt/en/users/viewUser/id.350/view.projects</p> |
| 2020 – 2022 | <p>Project implementer
 Title: “Virulence of avian malaria: untangling genetic players for infection severity” Research Council of Lithuania, Project 09.3.3-LMT-K-712.
 (PI: Vaidas Palinauskas)
 https://gamtostyrimai.lt/en/users/viewGroup/id.56/view.projects</p> |
| 2019 – 2022 | <p>Project implementer
 Title: “Unravelling diversity of parasites of cypriniform fishes in North America: a key to understand evolutionary processes”
 Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport of the Czech Republic (program Inter-Excellence; LTAUSA 18010).
 (PI: Tomáš Scholz).</p> |
| 2019–2020: | <p>Project implementer
 Title: “Trematodes in sub-Arctic lake food webs: development of quantitative diversity baselines and a framework for community ecology research in the Arctic”
 The Czech Grant Agency, Project No. 18-18597S.
 (PI: Anna Faltýnková).</p> |
| 2017 – 2018 | <p>Project leader
 Title: “Molecules to aid taxonomy and elucidation of life histories of trematode pathogens of wildlife in Ndumo Game Reserve, northern KwaZulu Natal, South</p> |

Africa”

The Claude Leon Foundation, South Africa.

2015 – 2017

Project implementer

ECIP – European Centre of Ichthyoparasitology.

Centre of Excellence, Czech Science Foundation (PI: Milan Gelnar; Co-PI: Tomáš Scholz)

<http://ecip.cz/about-ecip>

2013 – 2015

Postdoc researcher

Title: “Molecular and morphological approach to revealing diversity, taxonomy and life-cycles of larval flukes parasitising in water molluscs”

Research Council of Lithuania, Project VP1-3.1-ŠMM-01-V-02-004.

<https://gamtostyrimai.lt/lt/olena-kudlai>

INTERNSHIP AND TRAINING

2017

Course on Ectothermic Vertebrates Handling and Ethics.

2015, 1 month

School of Biological Sciences, The University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia. Host: Dr. Thomas H. Cribb.

2014, 2 months

Laboratory of Helminthology, Institute of Parasitology, České Budějovice, Czech Republic. Host: Dr. Aneta Kostadinova and Dr. Anna Faltýnková.

2014, 1 month

Department of Biology, University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, North Dakota, USA. Host: Dr. Vasyl V. Tkach.

2014

EMBO Practical Course "Computational Molecular Evolution". Heraklion, Greece. Organizers: Nick Goldman, Alexandros Stamatakis, Antonis Magoulas, Ziheng Yang, Aidan Budd.

<http://abacus.gene.ucl.ac.uk/CoME/>

PARTICIPATION IN SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCES (LAST 5 YEARS)

International scientific conferences:

1. Vermaak A, Smit N., **Kudlai O.** Digenean diversity of the marine fish host *Diplodus capensis* (Sparidae) from South Africa. In: *The 15th International Congress of Parasitology (ICOPA 2022)*, Copenhagen, Denmark, 21–26 August 2022.
2. Vermaak A., Kudlai O., Acosta A.A, Hadfield K.A., Smit N.J. Amazing parasite diversity of *Diplodus capensis* (Smit, 1844) in South Africa. In: *Southern African Society of Aquatic Scientists Congress 2022*, Amanzi, Brandfort, South Africa, 26–30 June 2022.
3. Vermaak A, Smit N., **Kudlai O.** A can of worms: High diversity of Opecoelidae (Trematoda: Digenea) from the South African intertidal super klipfish, *Clinus superciliosus*. In: *49th Conference of the Parasitological Society of Southern Africa*, online, 14–16 September 2021.
4. Vermaak A, Smit N., **Kudlai O.** *Cardiocephaloides* spp. (Digenea) from the eyes and brain of endemic South African klipfish. In: *British Society for Parasitology Conference*, 21–25 June 2021.
5. Vermaak A, Smit N., **Kudlai O.** Super klipfish, the super host: astonishing digenean diversity of *Clinus superciliosus* from the coast of South Africa. In: *9th Conference of the Scandinavian-Baltic Society for Parasitology (CSBSP9)*, Vilnius, Lithuania, 21–23 April 2021.

6. Faltýnková A., Kudlai O., Pantoja C., Skírnisson K. Trematodes in snails in sub-Arctic freshwater lakes in Iceland. In: *9th Conference of the Scandinavian-Baltic Society for Parasitology (CSBSP9)*, Vilnius, Lithuania, 21–23 April 2021
7. Pantoja C., Kudlai O. Digenean trematodes of marine fishes from Brazil: A synoptic review and prospects. In: *9th Conference of the Scandinavian-Baltic Society for Parasitology (CSBSP9)*, Vilnius, Lithuania, 21–23 April 2021
8. Hoogendoorn C., Smit N.J., **Kudlai O.** Exploring the diversity of *Diplostomum* (Digenea: Diplostomoidea) in freshwater fishes in South Africa. In: *48th Annual conference of the Parasitological Society of Southern Africa*, Windhoek, Namibia, 15–17 September 2019.
9. Vermaak A., **Kudlai O.**, Smit N.J. A fluke discovery – digeneans of *Clinus superciliosus* from the coast of South Africa. In: *48th Annual conference of the Parasitological Society of Southern Africa*, Windhoek, Namibia, 15–17 September 2019.
10. **Kudlai O.**, Smit N.J. Molecular diversity of the Diplostomidae (Digenea) in freshwater fishes in South Africa. In: *The 2018 Australian Society for Parasitology annual conference*, St Kilda, Melbourne, Australia, 24 – 27 September 2018.
11. **Kudlai O.**, Scholz T., Smit N.J. Uncovering the digenean diversity in freshwater fishes in Africa. In: *The 14th International Congress of Parasitology (ICOPA 2018)*, Daegu, Republic of Korea, 19 – 24 August 2018.
12. **Kudlai O.**, Smit N.J. True aquatic diversity is within: parasitic flatworms (Digenea) from freshwater fishes in Africa. In: *Southern African Society of Aquatic Scientists Congress 2018*, Cape St. Francis Bay Resort, Cape St. Francis South Africa, 24 – 28 June 2018.
13. Vermaak A., **Kudlai O.**, Smit N.J. Rediscovering marine parasites in South Africa: Digeneans of *Clinus superciliosus* (Perciformes: Clinidae) in the Tsitsikamma National Park. In: *Southern African Society of Aquatic Scientists Congress 2018*, Cape St. Francis Bay Resort, Cape St. Francis South Africa, 24 – 28 June 2018.
14. Hoogendoorn C., **Kudlai O.**, Smit N.J. Discovering diplostomid trematodes (Digenea: Diplostomoidea) in *Tilapia sparrmanii* in the North-West Province, South Africa. In: *Southern African Society of Aquatic Scientists Congress 2018*, Cape St. Francis Bay Resort, Cape St. Francis South Africa, 24 – 28 June 2018.
15. Lisitsyna O. I., **Kudlai O.**, Spraker T. R., Tkach V., Kuzmina T.A. Acanthocephalans from California sea lions (*Zalophus californianus*): new records and evidence for synonymy of *Corynosoma obtuscens* with *Corynosoma australe*. In: *9th Acanthocephalan Workshop*. Congress Center Academia, The High Tetras mountains, Slara Lesna, Slovakia, 9–13 September 2018. Update on selected topics in acanthocephalan parasites research. *Helminthologia*, 55(4): 350 – 361.

PARTICIPATION IN THE STUDY PROCESS

Supervision of PhD students:

Anja Vermaak	Thesis: „ <i>The role of marine protected areas in the conservation of the diversity of metazoan parasites of inter- and infratidal sparid fishes (Sparidae) along the south coast of South Africa</i> “ (North-West University, Potchefstroom Campus, Potchefstroom, South Africa)	2021 – 2024
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Supervision of bachelor and master students:

Anja Vermaak	Thesis: “ <i>Diversity of digenean trematodes of <i>Clinus superciliosus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) from the coast of South Africa</i> ” (North-West University, Potchefstroom Campus, Potchefstroom, South Africa)	2020 – 2022
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 Anja Vermaak Thesis: “Diversity of digenean trematodes of *Clinus superciliosus* (L., 1758) in the Tsitsikamma National Park, South Africa” (North-West University, Potchefstroom Campus, Potchefstroom, South Africa) 2018
- Coret Hoogendoorn Thesis: “Study of *Diplostomum* (Digenea: Diplostomoidea) in South Africa: Diversity and effect of metacercariae on fish behaviour” (North-West University, Potchefstroom Campus, Potchefstroom, South Africa) 2018 – 2019
- Coret Hoogendoorn Thesis: “Diversity of the Diplostomidae (Digenea: Diplostomoidea) from *Tilapia sparrmanii* in the North-West Province, South Africa” (North-West University, Potchefstroom Campus, Potchefstroom, South Africa) 2017

OTHERS

Member of Scientific Committee and Organising Committee of the 9th Conference of the Scandinavian-Baltic Society for Parasitology (21–23 April 2021).