

Rasa Bernotienė

CONTACT INFORMATION

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EDUCATION AND ACADEMIC DEGREE

1999 – 2003 PHD of Biomedical sciences, zoology (05 B) (Institute of Ecology of Vilnius university and Vilnius university) - "Peculiarities of the distribution and development of blackflies and biting midges (Diptera: Simuliidae, Ceratopogonidae) in Lithuania", supervisor – dr. habil. V. Jonaitis.
1996 – 1998 Vilnius university, Zoology / Master degree.
1992 – 1996 Vilnius university, Biology / Bachelor.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2020 – 2023 Head of the Laboratory of Entomology
2011 – till now Associate professor in Vilnius university, Life Sciences Center
2008 – till now Senior researcher in the Laboratory of Entomology
2003 – 2008 Researcher in the Laboratory of Entomology
1999-2003 PHD student in the Laboratory of Entomology
1997 – 1999 Laboratory technician in the Laboratory of Entomology

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Main field of research: blood-sucking dipteran insects (mosquitoes (Culicidae), blackflies (Simuliidae) and biting midges (Ceratopogonidae)), their ecology, development and distribution, control of blood-sucking insects. Hemosporidian and Flagellate parasites of birds, avian filariae and blood-sucking insects as vectors of mentioned parasites. Blood-sucking insects as potential vectors of other pathogens. Methodology used: insect dissection, microscopy, image analysis, DNA extraction, PCR, sequencing, sequence analysis.

PUBLICATIONS

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

1. Palinauskas, V., Žiegytė, R., Šengaut, J., **Bernotienė, R.** (2022) Experimental study on primary bird co-Infection with two *Plasmodium relictum* lineages-pSGS1 and pGRW11. *Animals*, 12 (15): art. no. 1879.
2. Žiegytė, R., **Bernotienė, R.**, Palinauskas, V. (2022) *Culicoides segnis* and *Culicoides pictipennis* biting midges (Diptera, Ceratopogonidae), new reported vectors of *Haemoproteus* parasites. *Microorganisms*, 10 (5): art. no. 898.

3. Žiegytė, R., **Bernotienė, R. (2022)** Contribution to the knowledge on black flies (Diptera: Simuliidae) as vectors of *Leucocytozoon* (Haemosporida) parasites in Lithuania. *Parasitology International*, 87: art. no. 102515.
4. Rimšaitė, J., Ivinskis, P., Bartkevičienė, G., **Bernotienė, R. (2022)**. The northward spread of the European mantis, *Mantis religiosa* (Mantodea: Mantidae): Data from Lithuania. *European Journal of Entomology*, 119: 318-326.
5. **Bernotienė, R.**, Bartkevičienė, G., Bukauskaitė, D. (2021) The flying activity of biting midges (Ceratopogonidae: *Culicoides*) in Verkiiai Regional Park, southeastern Lithuania. *Parasitology Research*, 120 (7): 2323–2332.
6. Binkienė, R., Chagas, C.R.F., **Bernotienė, R.**, Valkiūnas, G. (2021) Molecular and morphological characterization of three new species of avian Onchocercidae (Nematoda) with emphasis on circulating microfilariae. *Parasites & Vectors*, 14 (1): art. no. 137.
7. Žiegytė, R., Platonova, E., Kinderis, E., Mukhin, A., Palinauskas, V., **Bernotienė, R. (2021)** *Culicoides* biting midges involved in transmission of haemoproteids. *Parasites & Vectors*, 14 (1): art. no. 27.
8. **Bernotienė, R.**, Iezhova, T.A., Bukauskaitė, D., Chagas, C.R.F., Kazak, M., Valkiūnas, G. (2020) Development of *Trypanosoma everetti* in *Culicoides* biting midges. *Acta Tropica*, 210: art. no. 105555.
9. Valkiūnas, G., Ilgūnas, M., Chagas, C.R.F., **Bernotienė, R.**, Iezhova, T.A. (2020) Molecular characterization of swallow haemoproteids, with description of one new *Haemoproteus* species. *Acta Tropica*, 207: art. no. 105486.
10. Žiegytė, R., Platonova, E., **Bernotienė, R.**, Valkiūnas, G., Palinauskas, V. (2020) Complete sporogony of the blood parasite *Haemoproteus nucleococondensus* in common biting midges: why is its transmission interrupted in Europe? *Parasitology*, 147 (5): 593–600.
11. Bukauskaitė, D., Chagas, C.R.F., **Bernotienė, R.**, Žiegytė, R., Ilgūnas, M., Iezhova, T., Valkiūnas, G. (2019) A new methodology for sporogony research of avian haemoproteids in laboratory-reared *Culicoides* spp., with a description of the complete sporogonic development of *Haemoproteus pastoris*. *Parasites & Vectors*. 12 (1): art. no. 582.
12. Valkiūnas, G., Ilgūnas, M., Bukauskaitė, D., Chagas, C.R.F., **Bernotienė, R.**, Himmel, T., Harl, J., Weissenböck, H., Iezhova, T.A. (2019) Molecular characterization of six widespread avian haemoproteids, with description of three new *Haemoproteus* species. *Acta Tropica*. 197: art. no. UNSP 105051.
13. Ilgūnas, M., Chagas, C.R.F., Bukauskaitė, D., **Bernotienė, R.**, Iezhova, T., Valkiūnas, G. (2019) The life-cycle of the avian haemosporidian parasite *Haemoproteus majoris*, with emphasis on the exoerythrocytic and sporogonic development. *Parasites & Vectors*. 12 (1): art. no. 516.
14. Chagas, C.R.F., Bukauskaitė, D., Ilgūnas, M., **Bernotienė, R.**, Iezhova, T., Valkiūnas, G. (2019) Sporogony of four *Haemoproteus* species (Haemosporida: Haemoproteidae), with report of in vitro ookinetes of *Haemoproteus hirundinis*: phylogenetic inference indicates patterns of haemosporidian parasite ookinete development. *Parasites & Vectors*. 12 (1): art. no. 422.
15. Markevičiūtė, R., Podėnas, S., Saldaitis, A., **Bernotienė, R. (2019)** A new species of *Antocha* Osten Sacken, 1860 (Diptera: Limoniidae) from Sichuan, China. *Zootaxa*. 4661 (1): 118-132.
16. **Bernotienė, R.**, Žiegytė, R., Vaitkutė, G., Valkiūnas, G. (2019) Identification of a new vector species of avian haemoproteids, with a description of methodology for the determination of natural vectors of haemosporidian parasites. *Parasites & Vectors*. 12: art. no. 307.
17. Ciloglu, A., Ellis, V.A., **Bernotienė, R.**, Valkiūnas, G., Bensch, S. (2019) A new one-step multiplex PCR assay for simultaneous detection and identification of avian haemosporidian parasites. *Parasitology Research*. 118 (1): 191-201.

18. Palinauskas, V., Žiegytė, R., Šengaut, J., **Bernotienė, R. (2018)** Different paths - the same virulence: experimental study on avian single and co-infections with *Plasmodium relictum* and *Plasmodium elongatum*. *International Journal for Parasitology*. 48 (14): 1089-1096.
19. Pacheco, M.A., Cepeda, A.S., **Bernotienė, R.**, Lotta, I.A., Matta, N.E., Valkiūnas, G., Escalante, A.A. (2018) Primers targeting mitochondrial genes of avian haemosporidians: PCR detection and differential DNA amplification of parasites belonging to different genera. *International Journal for Parasitology*. 48 (8): 657-670.

PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS

- 2017 – 2020 Principal investigator Research Council of Lithuania, project *Determinations of vectors of natural blood parasites in the wild* (S-MIP-17-27).
- 2022 – 2024 Principal investigator Research Council of Lithuania, project *Molecular diagnostics and epidemiology of neglected avian blood parasites* (S-MIP-22-147).

PARTICIPATION IN SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCES

More than 50 presentations in international conferences on insects and parasitology. Main recent conferences are presented:

2012 / 2016 / 2018 / 2022: V / VII / VIII / IX *International Simuliidae Symposiums* Slovakia / Spain / UK / Marocco

2015 / 2021: *European mosquito control association*, Spain / Austria

2016 / 2018 / 2022: *International Conference on Malaria and Related Haemosporidian Parasites of Wildlife* Bulgaria / China / Germany

2019 / 2021: *The 8th Conference of the Scandinavian-Baltic Society for Parasitology (SBSP) and the Annual Meeting of the European Veterinary Parasitology College* Denmark / *The 9th Conference of the Scandinavian-Baltic Society for Parasitology (SBSP)* Lithuania

PARTICIPATION IN THE STUDY PROCESS

Supervision of PhD students:

Kristina Valavičiūtės-Pocienė (ecology and environmental studies) from 2020.

Margarita Kazak (zoology) from 2021.

Supervision of 5 master students and 6 bachelor students.