Laima Baltrūnaitė

CONTACT INFORMATION

Address	Akademijos Str. 2, Vilnius LT-08412, Lithuania
Tel. no.:	+370 5 272 92 57
E-mail:	laima.baltrunaite@gamtc.lt
	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2059-4884
	https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Laima-Baltrunaite

EDUCATION AND ACADEMIC DEGREE

1998 – 2003	PhD, Zoology, Biomedicine Sciences, 2003, Institute of Ecology, Vilnius University, Vilnius, Lithuania. "*Ecological niches of medium-sized carnivores in ecosystems in Lithuania*", supervisor – dr. P. Bluzma. Scientific interest: carnivores, diet, habitats, abundance, ecological niches.
1996 – 1998	Vilnius University, Zoology / Master Thesis. "Biology and behaviour peculiarities of the ungulate animals bred in enclosures, the history of breeding and current state in Lithuania". Institute of Ecology of Vilnius University, Laboratory of Mammalian Ecology. Scientific interest: ungulates, breeding in eclosures, biology, behaviour, history of breeding, current state in Lithuania.
1992 – 1996	Vilnius University, Biology / Bachelor Thesis. "Distribution and habitat use of red deer (*Cervus elaphus* L.) in Žagarė Reserve". Institute of Ecology of Vilnius University, Laboratory of Mammalian Ecology. Scientific interest: ungulates, habitats, distribution, abundance.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Since 2017	**Senior researcher**, Laboratory of Mammalian Ecology, Nature Research Centre
2013 – 2017	**Researcher**, Laboratory of Mammalian Ecology, Nature Research Centre
2008 – 2013	**Senior researcher**, Laboratory of Mammalian Ecology, Institute of Ecology of Vilnius University (since January 1, 2010 – Nature Research Centre)
2003 – 2008	**Researcher**, Laboratory of Mammalian Ecology, Institute of Ecology of Vilnius University
2003	Assist Assistant, Sector of Mammalian Ecology, Institute of Ecology of Vilnius University ant, Sector of Mammalian Ecology, Institute of Ecology of Vilnius University
1998 – 2003	PhD student, Institute of Ecology of Vilnius University
1998	**Assistant**, Sector of Mammalian Ecology, Institute of Ecology

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Scientific interests: mammalian ecology (diversity, diet, habitat, abundance). Predator – prey, host – parasite, host – microbiota interactions. Population genetic, phylogeography. Mammal parasites.

PUBLICATIONS

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

1. Kitrytė N., Križanauskienė A., **Baltrūnaitė L.** 2022. Ecological indices and factors influencing communities of ectoparasitic laelapid mites (Acari, Mesostigmata, Laelapidae) of small mammals in Lithuania. *Journal of Vector Ecology*, 47(1) : 99-108. https://doi.org/10.52707/1081-1710-47.1.99
2. Butkus R., **Baltrūnaitė L.**, Arbačiauskas K., Audzijonytė A. 2020. Two lineages of the invasive New Zealand mudsnail Potamopyrgus antipodarum spreading in the Baltic and Black sea basins: low genetic diversity and different salinity preferences. *Biological Invasions*: 22:3551–3559 https://doi.org/10.1007/s10530-020-02340-3
3. **Baltrūnaitė L.**, Kitrytė N., Križanauskienė A. 2020. Blood parasites (Babesia, Hepatozoon and Trypanosoma) of rodents, Lithuanian: part I:Molecular and traditional microscopy approach. Parasitology Research 119 (2): 687-694. DOI: 10.1007/s00436-019-06577-3
4. Knowles S.C.L., Eccles R.M., **Baltrūnaitė L**. 2019. Species identity dominates over environment in shaping the microbiota of small mammals. Ecology letters 22 (5): 826-837. https://doi.org/10.1111/ele.13240
5. Lin X.B., Wang T., Stothard P., Corander J., Wang J., Baines.F., Knowles S.C.L., **Baltrūnaitė L.**, Tasseva G., Schmaltz R., Tollenaar S., Cody L.A., Grenier T., Wu W., Ramer-Tait A.E., Walter J. 2018. The evolution of ecological facilitation within mixed-species biofilms in the mouse gastrointestinal tract. *The ISME Journal 12, 2770–2784.* DOI: 10.1038/s41396-018-0211-0
6. Audzijonyte A., **Baltrūnaitė L.**, Väinölä R., Arbačiauskas K. 2017. Human-mediated lineage admixture in an expanding Ponto-Caspian crustacean species *Paramysis lacustris* created a novel genetic stock that now occupies European waters. *Biological Invasions*: 19 (8): 2443-2457. DOI: 10.1007/s10530-017-1454-9
7. Hindrikson M., Remm J., Pilot M., Godinho R., Stronen A.V., **Baltrūnaitė L.**, Czarnomska S., Leonard J. A., Randi E., Nowak C., Åkesson M., López-Bao J. V., Alvares F., Llaneza L., Echegaray J., Vilà C., Ozolins J., Rungis D., Aspi J., Paule L., Skrbinšek T., Saarma U. 2017. Wolf population genetics in Europe: a systematic review, meta-analysis and suggestions for conservation and management. *Biological Reviews*: 92 (3): 1601-1629. https://doi.org/10.1111/brv.12298
8. Juškaitis R., **Baltrūnaitė L.**, Kitrytė N. 2016. Feeding in an unpredictable environment: yearly variations in the diet of the hazel dormouse *Muscardinus avellanarius*. *Mammal Research* 61 (4): 367-372. https://doi.org/10.1007/s13364-016-0280-2
9. Drygala F., Korablev N., Ansorge H., Fickel J., Isomursu M., Elmeros M., Kowalczyk R. **Baltrunaite L.**, Balciauskas L., Saarma U., Schulze C., Borkenhagen P., Frantz A. C. 2016 Homogenous Population Genetic Structure of the Non-Native Raccoon Dog (*Nyctereutes procyonoides*) in Europe as a Result of Rapid Population Expansion. *PLoS ONE* 11(4): e0153098. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0153098
10. Juškaitis R., Balčiauskas L., **Baltrūnaitė L.**, Augutė V. 2015. Dormouse (Gliridae) populations on the northern periphery of their distributional ranges: a review. *Folia Zoologica* 64 (4): 302-309. DOI: 10.25225/fozo.v64.i4.a2.2015
11. Audzijonyte A., **Baltrūnaitė L.**, Väinölä R., Arbačiauskas K. 2015. Migration and isolation during the turbulent Ponto-Caspian Pleistocene create high diversity in the crustacean *Paramysis lacustris*. *Molecular Ecology* 24 (17): 4537-4555. https://doi.org/10.1111/mec.13333
12. Juškaitis R., **Baltrūnaitė L.**, Augutė V. 2015. Diet of the fat dormouse (*Glis glis*) on the northern periphery of its distributional range. *Mammal Research* 60 (2): 155-161. https://doi.org/10.1007/s13364-015-0213-5

13. Juškaitis R., **Baltrūnaitė L.** 2013. Seasonal variability in the diet of the forest dormouse, Drymoys nitedula, on the north-western edge of its distributional range. *Folia Zoologica* 62 (4): 311-318. DOI:10.25225/fozo.v62.i4.a9.2013
14. **Baltrūnaitė L.,** Balčiauskas L., Åkesson M. 2013. The genetic structure of the Lithuanian wolf population. *Central European Journal of Biology* 8(5): 440-447. https://doi.org/10.2478/s11535-013-0154-9
15. Juškaitis R., **Baltrūnaitė L.** 2013. Feeding on the edge: diet of the hazel dormouse *Muscardinus avellanarius* (Linnaeus 1758) on the northern periphery of its distributional range. *Mammalia* 77 (2): 149-155. https://doi.org/10.1515/mammalia-2012-0086
16. Balčiauskas L., Balčiauskienė L., **Baltrūnaitė, L.** 2010. Root Vole, *Microtus oeconomus*, in Lithuania: Changes in the Distribution Range. *Folia Zoologica* 59 (4): 267-277. http://doi.org/10.25225/fozo.v59.i4.a1.2010
17. **Baltrūnaitė L.** 2010. Winter habitat use, habitat niche breadth and overlap between the red fox, pine marten and raccoon dog in different landscapes, Lithuania. *Folia Zoologica* 59 (4): 278-284. http://doi.org/10.25225/fozo.v59.i4.a2.2010

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

1. Beerli O., Guerra D., **Baltrunaite L.**, Deplazes P., Hegglin D. 2017. *Microtus arvalis* and *Arvicola scherman*: Key players in the *Echinococcus multilocularis* life cycle. *Frontiers in Veterinary Science* 4: 216. doi: 10.3389/fvets.2017.00216

Other reviewed scientific publications:

1. **Baltrūnaitė, L.** 2010. *Microtus subterraneus* de Sélys-Longchamps, 1836: a new mammal species for the Latvian fauna. *Acta Zoologica Lituanica* 20 (1): 37-38.
2. **Baltrūnaitė L.**, Balčiauskas L. 2009. Tyrimų metodikos. Ūdra ir kanadinė audinė. Sud. Arbačiauskas K., Balčiauskas L., **Baltrūnaitė L.** ir kt. Gyvūnijos monitoringo metodai, 154-157 p. Vilniaus universiteto Ekologijos institutsas, Vilnius.
3. **Baltrūnaitė, L.** 2009. Diet of otters in fish farms in Lithuania. *Acta Zoologica Lituanica* 19 (3): 182-187.
4. **Baltrūnaitė, L.**, Balčiauskas, L., Matulaitis, R. and Stirkė, V. 2009. Otter distribution in Lithuania in 2008 and changes in the last decade. *Estonian Journal of Ecology* 58 (2): 94-102.
5. Balčiauskienė L., **Baltrūnaitė L.** Treinys R. 2007. Using two methods in prey identification from pellets of the Lessere Spotted Eagle (*Aquilla pomarina*). *Acta Biologica Universitatis Daugavpiliensis. Supplement* 1: 37-45.
6. **Baltrūnaitė L.** 2006. Seasonal diet of the otter (*Lutra lutra* L.) in natural river ecosystems of south-eastern Lithuania. *Acta Zoologica Lituanica* 16 (2): 107-114.
7. **Baltrūnaitė L.**, Mažeikytė R., Stunžėnas V. 2006. New data on the distribution of mitochondrial DNA lineages of the field vole (*Microtus agrestis*) in Lithuania and Belarus. *Acta Zoologica Lituanica* 16 (2): 115-118.
8. **Baltrūnaitė L.** 2006. Diet and winter habitat use of the red fox, pine marten and raccoon dog in Dzūkija National Park, Lithuania. *Acta Zoologica Lituanica* 16 (1): 46-53.
9. **Baltrūnaitė L.** 2006. Diet and winter habitat selection of the pine marten (*Martes martes* L.) in sandy and clay plains, Lithuania.. In: Santos-Reis M., Birks J. D. S., O'Doherty E. C., Proulx G. *Martes in carnivores communities*, pp. 99-108. Alpha Wildlife Publications, Sherwood Park, Alberta, Canada.
10. **Baltrūnaitė L.** 2005. Seasonal diet diversity of raccoon dog (*Nyctereutes procyonoides* Gray) in different landscapes, Lithuania. *Acta Biologica Universitatis Daugavpiliensis* 5 (1): 75-83.

11. **Baltrūnaitė L.** 2003. Miškinės kiaunės (*Martes martes*) mityba Lietuvoje. *Theriologia Lituanica* 3: 62-73.
12. **Baltrūnaitė L.** 2002. Diet composition of the red fox (*Vulpes vulpes* L.), pine marten (*Martes martes* L.) and raccoon dog (*Nyctereutes procyonoides* Gray) in clay plain landscape. Lithuania. *Acta Zoologica Lituanica* 4: 362-368.
13. **Baltrūnaitė L.** 2001. Feeding habits, food niche overlap of red fox (*Vulpes vulpes* L.) and pine marten (*Martes martes* L.) in hilly moraine highland, Lithuania. *Ekologija* 2: 27-31.
14. **Baltrūnaitė L.** 2000. Biological peculiarities of ungulate animals bred in enclosures in Lithuania. *Folia Theriologica Estonica* 5: 30-34.
15. **Baltrūnaitė L.** 1999. State and prospects of ungulate animals breeding in enclosures in Lithuania. *Acta Zoologica Lituanica* 9: 55-60.

PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS

2022 –	**Investigator** Research Council of Lithuania. Natural anti-α-Gal antibodies and the protection against avian malaria
2017 – 2020	**Investigator** Research Council of Lithuania: Structure of parasite communities, gut microbiota and its regulation in small mammal
20112015	**Investigator** Global grant**.**Peculiarities of dormouse (Gliridae) populations in the northwest periphery of the distribution range
20072009	**Investigator** Lithuanian State Science and Studies Foundation. Trends in ecosystems development, and studies on the molecular phylogeography of populations in the Baltic region
2007	**Investigator** Lithuanian State Science and Studies Foundation. Phylogeography and coevolution of small mammals and their cestodes in Baltic region
20032006	**Investigator** Lithuanian State Science and Studies Foundation.Development and alterations of postglacial ecosystems in the Baltic region (linkage between traditional and molecular data)

INTERNSHIP AND TRAINING

2019	metagenomics and NGS data analysis, Oxford University (United Kingdom)
2010	population genetics, Grimsö Wildlife Research Station, Swedish Universit Agricultural Sciences (Sweden)
2005	molecular genetic, phylogeography, Lund University (Sweden)
2004	caryology, Koltzov Institute of Developmental Biology, Russian Academy of Sciences (Moscow, Russia)
1999, 2001	carnivores ecology, Institute of Zoology, National Academy of Science of Belarus (Minsk, Belarus), Mammal Research Institute (Bialowieza, Poland)

PARTICIPATION IN SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCES

Over 30 international scientific conferences:

1. Kitrytė N., **Baltrūnaitė L**. 2021. Host and habitat preferences of chigger mites (Trombiculidae) on small mammals in Lithuania. 9th Conference of the Scandinavian - Baltic Society for Parasitology. Vilnius, Lithuania, April 21-23.
2. Kitrytė N., Križanauskienė A., Lundquist L., **Baltrūnaitė L**. 2019. New data of the ecology of ectoparasitic Laelapidae mites (Mesostigmata) of small mammals, Lithuania. The 8th

Conference of the Scandinavian-Baltic Society for Parasitology (SBSP) and the Annual Meeting of the European Veterianry Parasitology College (EVPC). Copenhagen, Denmark, October 9-11, 2019

3. **Baltrūnaitė L.,** Kitrytė N., Križanauskienė A. 2019. Blood parasites of rodents, Lithuania: *Babesia*, *Hepatozoon*, and *Trypanosoma*. The 8th Conference of the Scandinavian-Baltic Society for Parasitology (SBSP) and the Annual Meeting of the European Veterianry Parasitology College (EVPC). Copenhagen, Denmark, October 9-11, 2019.
4. Križanauskienė A., Kitrytė N., **Baltrūnaitė L. 2019**. Blood parasites (*Trypanosoma* sp., *Hepatozoon* sp., *Babesia* sp.) of wild rodents in Lithuania: linkage between molecular and traditional microscopy data. The 8th Conference of the Scandinavian-Baltic Society for Parasitology (SBSP) and the Annual Meeting of the European Veterinary Parasitology College (EVPC). Copenhagen, Denmark, October 9-11, 2019.

PARTICIPATION IN THE STUDY PROCESS

Supervision of PhD students:

Natural Sciences (N000). Ecology and Environmental Science (N012)

Neringa Kitrytė	Dissertation: „Diversity of small mammal parasites and factors shaping their communities“ (defended in 2022-09-05)	2017–2021

Supervision of 9 bachelor and 4 master students: