

Dovilė Bukauskaitė

CONTACT INFORMATION

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EDUCATION AND ACADEMIC DEGREE

- 2014 – 2018 Doctoral degree in Ecology and Environmental studies (03 Ecology and Environmental studies) in field of Biomedical Sciences (Nature Research Centre, P. B. Šivickis laboratory of parasitology).
Dissertation topic: “Avian haemosporidian parasites (Haemosporida): sporogonic development and determination of vectors”, scientific supervisor – habil. dr. G. Valkiūnas.
Research area: parasitology; determination of *Haemoproteus* and *Plasmodium* vectors.
- 2012 – 2014 Vilnius University, Zoology / Masters degree.
Masters thesis topic: “Study of the development of haemoporidae parasites (*Haemoproteus*, *Plasmodium*) in vectors and vertebrate hosts”. (Nature Research Centre, P. B. Šivickis laboratory of parasitology).
Research area: parasitology.
- 2008 – 2012 Vilnius University, Biology / Bachelor degree.
Bachelor thesis topic: “Contribution to the study of the helminth fauna of deer (Cervidae) in Easterns Lithuania”. (Vilnius University, Department of zoology).
Research area: parasitology.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2021 – iki dabar **Senior researcher**
P. B. Šivickis laboratory of parasitology, Nature Research Centre.
- 2019 – 2021 **Researcher**
P. B. Šivickis laboratory of parasitology, Nature Research Centre.
- 2015 – 2019 **Junior researcher**
P. B. Šivickis laboratory of parasitology, Nature Research Centre.
- 2013 – 2015 **Laboratory technician**
P. B. Šivickis laboratory of parasitology, Nature Research Centre.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Identification of avian blood parasites, experimental work with vectors and hosts using molecular and traditional microscopy methods. Genetic diversity and phylogeny of parasites.

PUBLICATIONS

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

1. 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.
2. Chagas, C.R.F., Harl, J., Preikša, V., **Bukauskaitė, D.**, Ilgūnas, M., Weissenböck, H., Valkiūnas, G. (2021) Lankesterella (Apicomplexa, Lankesterellidae) blood parasites of Passeriform birds: prevalence, molecular and morphological characterization, with notes on sporozoite persistence in vivo and development in vitro. *Animals*, 11 (5): art. no. 1451.
3. Valkiūnas, G., Ilgūnas, M., **Bukauskaitė, D.**, Duc, M., Iezhova, T.A. (2021) Description of *Haemoproteus asymmetricus* n. sp. (Haemoproteidae), with remarks on predictability of the DNA haplotype networks in haemosporidian parasite taxonomy research. *Acta Tropica*, 218: art. no. 105905.
4. 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.
5. **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.
6. 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.
7. Weinberg, J., Field, J.T., Ilgūnas, M., **Bukauskaitė, D.**, Iezhova, T., Valkiūnas, G., Sehgal, R.N.M. (2019) De novo transcriptome assembly and preliminary analyses of two avian malaria parasites, *Plasmodium delichoni* and *Plasmodium homocircumflexum*. *Genomics*. 111 (6): 1815-1823.
8. 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.
9. 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.
10. Ilgūnas, M., **Bukauskaitė, D.**, Palinauskas, V., Iezhova, T., Fragner, K., Platonova, E., Weissenböck, H., Valkiūnas, G. (2019) Patterns of *Plasmodium homocircumflexum* virulence in experimentally infected passerine birds. *Malaria Journal*. 18: art. no. 174.
11. **Bukauskaitė, D.**, Iezhova, T.A., Ilgūnas, M., Valkiūnas, G. (2019) High susceptibility of the laboratory-reared biting midges *Culicoides nubeculosus* to *Haemoproteus* infections, with review on *Culicoides* species that transmit avian haemoproteids. *Parasitology*. 146 (3): 333-341.
12. Chagas, C.R.F., **Bukauskaitė, D.**, Ilgūnas, M., Iezhova, T., Valkiūnas, G. (2018) A new blood parasite of leaf warblers: molecular characterization, phylogenetic relationships, description and identification of vectors. *Parasites & Vectors*. 11: art.no. 538.
13. Valkiūnas, G., Ilgūnas, M., **Bukauskaitė, D.**, Fragner, K., Weissenböck, H., Atkinson, C.T., Iezhova, T.A. (2018) Characterization of *Plasmodium relictum*, a cosmopolitan agent of avian malaria. *Malaria Journal*. 17: art. no. 184.

PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS

- 2020 – 2022 **Project leader** Research Council of Lithuania, group project „*Determination of vectors transmitting haemoproteid parasites of diurnal raptors*“. Project no. S-MIP-20-57.
- 2020 – 2022 **Intern** EU structural funds project, “*Does the viability of haemosporidian gametocytes change during different transmission seasons in nature?*” Project no. 09.3.3-LMT-K-712-19-0171
- 2019 – 2021 **Principal researcher** Research Council of Lithuania, group project „*Identification of natural vectors of blood parasites*“. Project no. S-MIP-17-27
- 2017 – 2020 **Researcher** European social fund project „*Virulence of avian malaria: untangling genetic players for infection severity*” Project no. 09.3.3-LMT-K-712-01-0016
- 2015 – 2018 **Principal researcher** Research Council of Lithuania, group project „*Virulence mechanisms of parasitic protozoa*“. Project no. MIP-15022

INTERNSHIP AND TRAINING

- 2022 m. 08 Blood parasites of birds and reptiles. Kolumbijos National University of Colombia, Bogota, Colombia.
- 2022 m. 05 Morphological characterization of haemoproteids vectors (biting midges). Pirbright Institute, Surrey, UK.
- 2016 m. 11 Molecular studies of avian blood parasites. San Francisco State University, San Francisco, USA.
- 2015 m. 04 Work with colonies of blood-sucking insects. Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, Liverpool, UK.
- 2014 m. 07 Avian blood parasites. „Third annual international workshop on malaria and other haemosporidian parasites of wildlife“. West Virginia, USA.

PARTICIPATION IN SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCES

International scientific conferences:

1. **Bukauskaitė D.**, Valkiūnas G. 2022. Viability of haemoproteids during different transmission seasons in nature. 4th International Congress on Parasites of Wildlife. September 11–15, Skukuza, South Africa. Abstract book: 54.
2. **Bukauskaitė D.**, Dementavičius D., Rumbutis S., Treinys R. 2022. New method for avian haemosporidian parasites identification in raptor birds: parasite genetic diversity and prevalence in migratory and resident raptors. 5th International Conference on Malaria and

Related Haemosporidian Parasites of Wildlife. September 05–08, Bielefeld, Germany. Abstract book: 93.

PARTICIPATION IN THE STUDY PROCESS

Supervision of bachelor and master students:

Neda Vavilovaitė	Master thesis topic: „Determination of diversity and abundance of hemosporidian parasites in birds of prey (<i>Buteo buteo</i>)“ (VU GMC, Biodiversity)	2021 – 2022
Dagnė Cėplaitė	Bachelor thesis topic: „Sporogony of parasites of the genus <i>Haemoproteus</i> and its affect on blood-sucking insects“. (VU GMC, Biologijos studijų programa)	2018 – 2019
Veronika Maciol	Bachelor thesis topic: „Detection of haemosporidian parsites in juveniles“. (VU GMC, Biology)	2018 – 2019
Akvilė Kvietkauskaitė	Bachelor thesis topic: „Molecular diagnostics of haemosporidian parasites“. (VU GMC, Molecular biology)	2016 – 2017

OTHERS

1. Member of *Scandinavian-Baltic Society for Parasitology*, (2013-present).
2. Member of *Baltic Laboratory Animal Science Association*, (2014-present)
3. Member of *The Parasitological Society of Southern Africa*, (2022-present)