

# Margarita Kazak

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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## EDUCATION AND ACADEMIC DEGREE

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2021 – present Natural sciences area Zoology Science field (N 014) PhD studies (Vilnius university and Nature Research Centre)  
Topic of the dissertation thesis “Biting midge (*Culicoides*: Ceratopogonidae) ecology, phylogeny and their role in the parasite transmission”, supervisor – dr. R. Bernotienė.  
Research field: entomology, ecology, parasitology, identification of vectors, microscopic and molecular investigation.

2019 – 2021 Vilnius University, Biodiversity / M. Sc. *Magna Cum Laude*  
Topic of the thesis: “ Investigation of trypanosomes (Kinetoplastea, Trypanosomatida) in insect vectors”.  
Thesis completed in Nature Research Centre, Institute of ecology, P. B. Šivickis laboratory of Parasitology.  
Research field: parasitology, identification of vectors, microscopic and molecular investigation.

2015 – 2019 Vilnius University, Biology / B.Sc. *Cum laude*  
Topic of the thesis: “ Avian trypanosomes (*Trypanosoma*) in bloodsucking biting midges (Ceratopogonidae) and blackflies (Simuliidae)”.  
Thesis completed in Nature Research Centre, Institute of ecology, P. B. Šivickis laboratory of Parasitology.  
Research field: parasitology, identification of vectors, molecular investigation.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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2021 10 – until now **PhD student**  
Laboratory of Entomology, Institute of Ecology

2020-02 – 2021-09 **Chief Specialist**  
Phytosanitary Research Laboratory (Division), The State Plant Service under the Ministry of Agriculture, Vilnius, Lithuania;  
Research field: entomology, herbology, nematology.

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

Trypanosomatids: phylogeny and identification based on molecular methods (dixenous and monoxenous trypanosomatids);

Biting midges (*Culicoides*, Ceratopogonidae): morphology, identification;

## PUBLICATIONS

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

1. Bernotienė R., Ježova T., Bukauskaitė D, Chagas C., Kazak M., Valkiūnas G. 2020. Development of *Trypanosoma everetti* in *Culicoides* biting midges. Acta Tropica. 210: 105555. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.actatropica.2020.105555>

## PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS

- 2022 05 – **Biologist**  
present  
Research Council of Lithuania „Paukščių hemoproteozės transmisijos mechanizmai (METAH)“. Project manager: dr. Carolina Romeiro Fernandes Chagas. P. B. Šivickis laboratory of parasitology, Nature Research Centre, Vilnius, Lithuania. Project: Nr. S-MIP-21-55.
- 2022 04 – **Junior researcher**  
present  
Research Council of Lithuania „Mažai tirtų paukščių kraujo parazitų molekulinė diagnostika ir epidemiologija (VECTOR)“. Project manager: dr. Rasa Bernotienė. . Laboratory of Entomology, Nature Research Centre, Vilnius, Lithuania. Project: Nr. S-MIP-22-50.
- 2020 01 – **Biologist**  
2022 12  
Research Council of Lithuania „Dieninių plėšriųjų paukščių hemoproteidinius parazitus platinančių pernešėjų nustatymas (DPARAZIT)“. Project manager: dr. Dovilė Bukauskaitė. P. B. Šivickis laboratory of parasitology, Nature Research Centre, Vilnius, Lithuania. Projektas: Nr. S-MIP-20-57.
- 2021 11 – **Biologist**  
2022 – 04  
JSC „Divaks“ project „Didžiajam milčiui skirtos auginimo reprodukcinės sistemos optimizavimas ir mitybinių receptūrų testavimas (DIVAKS)“. Project manager: dr. Dominykas Aleknavičius. Laboratory of Chemical and Behavioural Ecology, Nature Research Centre, Vilnius, Lithuania. Project: Nr. 2021/PR-4-15.
- 2020 07 – **Biologist**  
2020 10  
Research Council of Lithuania „Paukščių hemosporidinių infekcijų plitimą stabdančių veiksnių tyrimas (AVIHEM)“. Project manager: dr. Rita Žiegytė. P. B. Šivickis laboratory of parasitology, Nature Research Centre, Vilnius, Lithuania. Project: Nr. S-MIP-20-25.
- 2018 07 – **Student – project promoter**  
2018 08  
2014–2020 m. European Union and Research Council of Lithuania project for Development of Scientific Competences of Scientists, other Researchers and Students through Practical Research Activities. Project theme: „Paukščių kraujo parazitų tyrimas dvisparniuose vabzdžiuose (Culicidae, Ceratopogonidae)“. Project manager: dr. Rita Žiegytė, P. B. Šivickis laboratory of Parasitology, Nature Research Centre, Vilnius, Lithuania. Project: 09.3.3.-LMT-K-712-09-0157
- 2019 05 – **Biologist**  
2019 08  
Avian malaria, anti-malaria and telomerase treatments experiment as part of the

ERC Advanced Grant „EcoImmuneCosts“ research project name „EcoImmuneCosts Canaries Project“, Project manager: habil. dr. Gediminas Valkiūnas, P. B. Šivickis laboratory of parasitology, Nature Research Centre, Vilnius, Lithuania. Project: Nr. 42646.

2018 12; 2019 **Biologist**

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Research Council of Lithuania „Natūraliųjų kraujo parazitų pernešėjų nustatymas (KRAUNAT)“. Project manager: dr. Rasa Bernotienė. Laboratory of Entomology, Nature Research Centre, Vilnius, Lithuania. Project: Nr. S-MIP-17-27.

## **PARTICIPATION IN SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCES**

### ***International scientific conferences:***

1. Bernotienė R., **Kazak M.**, Palinauskas V., Žiegytė R. 2022. *Culicoides* biting midges: vectors of avian blood parasites in Curonian spit – 5<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Malaria and related Haemosporidian Parasites of Wildlife, Wildlife Malaria Conference 2022“, September 5<sup>th</sup>–8<sup>th</sup>, Bielefeld, Germany.
2. **Kazak M.**, Bukauskaitė D., Treinys R., Bernotienė R. 2022. Parasites, vector and the host. Some data from raptor bird nests – 15<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Parasitology “ICOPA 2022), August 21<sup>st</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>, Copenhagen, Denmark.
3. **Kazak M.**, Bukauskaitė D., Treinys R., Bernotienė R. 2022. Trypanosomatids in wild-caught biting midges (*Culicoides*) from the nests of raptor birds – 65<sup>th</sup> International Conference for Students of Physics and Natural Sciences “OpenReadings”, March 15<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup>, Vilnius, Lithuania. Book of Abstracts: 87. [https://www.openreadings.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Abstract\\_book\\_2022S.pdf](https://www.openreadings.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Abstract_book_2022S.pdf)
4. Iezhova T. A., Bernotienė R., Bukauskaitė D., Chagas C. R. F., **Kazak M.**, Žiegytė R., Valkiūnas G., 2021. Development of two avian *Trypanosoma* species in experimentally infected bloodsucking insects – 9<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Scandinavian-Baltic Society for Parasitology “CSBSP9”, April 21<sup>st</sup> -23<sup>rd</sup>, Vilnius, Lithuania.
5. **Kazak M.**, Bernotienė R., Palinauskas V., Žiegytė R. 2021. Trypanosomatids in wild-caught biting midges – 9<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Scandinavian-Baltic Society for Parasitology “CSBSP9”, April 21<sup>st</sup> -23<sup>rd</sup>, Vilnius, Lithuania.
6. **Kazak M.**, Bernotienė R., Iezhova T. 2020. Avian trypanosomes (*Trypanosoma*) in bloodsucking biting midges (Ceratopogonidae) – 63<sup>rd</sup> International Conference for Students of Physics and Natural Sciences “OpenReadings”, March 17<sup>th</sup> -20<sup>th</sup>, Vilnius, Lithuania. Book of Abstracts: 94. <https://www.openreadings.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/knyga20N.pdf>

## **OTHERS**

1. Main research grants:

2018 Research Council of Lithuania. Investigation of avian blood parasites in dipteran insects (Culicidae, Ceratopogonidae). No. 09.3.3.-LMT-K-712-09-0157, 1 893,07 €. Student project promoter.

2020 Scandinavian-Baltic Society for Parasitology (SBSP) “SBSP Student Participation Grant 2021”.

2022 Scandinavian-Baltic Society for Parasitology (SBSP) “ICOPA participation grant, 1000 €. Org. No: 8024482831”

2. Popularization of science: Margarita Kazak, Kristina Valavičiūtė-Pocienė <https://www.delfi.lt/grynas/gamta/ventes-raga-uzpludo-ryskiaspalviai-vabzdziai-nusejo-pakrantes-zoles-ir-akmenis.d?id=90320095>

3. Certificates:

2020 02 Lithuanian standard LST EN ISO/IEC 17025:2018 “General requirements for the competence of research, testing and calibration laboratories”;

2020 05 Lithuanian standard LST EN ISO/IEC 17025:2018 “Performance of internal audit and management of nonconformities in testing laboratories”.

4. Membership in organizations

2021 02 – now Scandinavian-Baltic Society for Parasitology

2022 12 – now Lithuanian Entomological Society