

Kristina Valavičiūtė-Pocienė

CONTACT INFORMATION

Address Akademijos Str. 2, Vilnius LT-08412, Lithuania
E-mail: +370 6 993 56 54
kristina.valaviciute@gamtc.lt
<https://orcid.org/my-orcid?orcid=0000-0003-4444-1388>
<https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Kristina-Valaviciute-Pociene-2>

EDUCATION AND ACADEMIC DEGREE

2020 – now Natural sciences area Ecology and Environmental Science field (N012) PhD studies (Vilnius university and Nature Research Centre).
Research theme: „Bloodsucking dipterous insects: the biology and their role in transmission of blood parasites”, scientific Supervisor – dr. R. Bernotienė.
Research area: bloodsucking mosquitoes; bloodsucking biting midges; haemosporidians, trypanosomas and filarial worms transmitted by bloodsucking insects.

2016 – 2018 Vilnius University, Biological diversity / Master.
Master thesis: “Detection of avian blood parasites (Haemosporida, Trypanosomatida) in bloodsucking biting midges”.
Thesis did at P. B. Šivickis Parasitology laboratory, Nature Research Centre.
Research area: natural infection of wild caught biting midges with avian blood parasites; detection of blood parasites using molecular methods; comparison of infection rates of biting midges collected in different methods.

2012 – 2016 Vilnius University, Biology / Bachelor.
Bachelor thesis: “Three-spined stickleback (*Gasterosteus aculeatus*) helminths”.
Thesis did at P. B. Šivickis Parasitology laboratory, Nature Research Centre.
Research area: parasitology; helminths; helminths of three-spined stickleback.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2020 10 – until now **PhD student**
Laboratory of Entomology, Nature Research Centre

2017 06 – 2020 08 **Junior Environmental Expert**
Baltic Environmental Forum

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Field of research: the role of blood-sucking (Culicidae) mosquitoes and biting midges (Ceratopogonidae) in the transmission of avian blood parasites (Haemosporida, Trypanosomatida, Filarioidea), prevalence, seasonality, patterns of development of different species of blood-sucking insects in Lithuanian conditions, detection of naturally infected mosquitoes and biting midges with blood parasites using molecular and traditional research methods, seasonal patterns of natural infections in blood-sucking insects, experimental studies of mosquitoes ability to transmit blood parasites under laboratory conditions.

PUBLICATIONS

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

1. Chagas, C.R.F.; Hernán-dez-Lara, C.; Duc, M.; **Valavičiūtė-Pocienė, K.**; Bernotienė, R. What Can Haemosporidian Lineages Found in Culicoides Biting Midges Tell Us about Their Feeding Preferences? *Diversity* 2022, 14, 957. <https://doi.org/10.3390/d14110957>

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

1. **Valavičiūtė K.**, Fernandes Chagas C.R., Bernotienė R. 2020. Data on the biting midges of the genus *Culicoides* Latreille (Diptera: Ceratopogonidae) in Labanoras Regional Park (Eastern Lithuania). *Bulletin of the Lithuanian Entomological Society*. Volume 4 (32), 120-124.
2. Markevičiūtė R., **Valavičiūtė-Pocienė K.**, Rintala T. 2021. *Heterogaster artemisiae* Schilling, 1829 (Heteroptera: Heterogastridae) a new species for Lithuania. *Bulletin of the Lithuanian Entomological Society*. Volume 5 (33), 20-22.0

PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 2021 – now | junior researcher in project „Mechanisms of transmission of avian haemoproteosis“ (project supervisor: Carolina R. F. Chagas). Project: S-MIP-21-55. |
| 2021 – 2022 | biologist in project „Didžiajam milčiui skirtos auginimo reprodukcinės sistemos optimizavimas ir mitybinių receptų testavimas“. Project: 2021/PER-4-15. |

INTERNSHIP AND TRAINING

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| 2022 11-28 /
12-04 | Practice of bloodsucking insect identification, material collecting and storing methods (University of Balearic Islands (UIB), Palma de Mallorca, Spain). |
|-----------------------|---|

PARTICIPATION IN SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCES

International scientific conferences:

1. **Valavičiūtė-Pocienė K.**, Bernotienė R. 2021. *Culicoides* biting midges: species composition, flying activity and intraspecific diversity - *9th Conference of the Scandinavian--Baltic Society for Parasitology*, April 21-23, Vilnius, Lithuania.
2. Chagas C. R. F., Hernández-Lara C., Duc M., **Valavičiūtė-Pocienė K.**, Bernotienė R. 2022 Identification of natural vectors of Haemoproteus parasites - *15th International Congress of Parasitology*, August 21-26, Kopenhaga, Danija.
3. **Valavičiūtė-Pocienė K.**, Bernotienė R. 2022. Seasonal activity of mosquitoes in Lithuania with some notes on their role as vectors of avian malaria – *5th International Conference on Malaria and Related Haemosporidian Parasites of Wildlife*, September 5-8, Bielefeld, Vokietija. Book of abstracts: 131.

OTHERS

1. Answer prepared by M. Kazak and K. Valavičiūtė-Pocienė for an article: <https://www.delfi.lt/grynas/gamta/ventes-raga-uzpludo-ryskiaspalviai-vabzdziai-nusejo-pakrantes-zoles-ir-akmenis.d?id=90320095>
2. A lesson about bloodsucking insects prepared for school children for the project „Pažinimo voratinklis“ organized by LMNŠC: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CUELXU_FoKE&t=597s
3. 2017 January 17th – 2017/September 1st Voluntary work (100 hours) at Zoology Museum of Vilnius University at the Institute of Biosciences, Life Science Center. Certificate No 389-1404
4. 2016 November 10th/Reading lectures on parasitology for Radviliškis educational institutions 9-12 grade students and teachers at the conference „Researcher’s day - 4“. Certificate No 6.4-L-17
5. Interview given and help in preparing the "Mokslo sriuba" show about aquatic warblers: <https://www.lrt.lt/naujienos/mokslas-ir-it/11/1161652/mokslo-sriuba-kaip-zuvintas-tapo-itin-rare-birds-at-home>