

# Nick Schafstall, PhD



## Personal information:

Full name: Nick Bennett Schafstall  
Home address: Vilnius, Lithuania  
Cell phone: +370 625 18407  
Email address: [nick.schafstall@gmail.com/](mailto:nick.schafstall@gmail.com)  
[nick.schafstall@gamtc.lt](mailto:nick.schafstall@gamtc.lt)  
ORCID: 0000-0002-7781-549X  
Researchgate: [https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Nick\\_Schafstall](https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Nick_Schafstall)  
Website: <https://nickschafstall.wixsite.com/aboutme>

## Education

2016 – 2021 PhD studies, Czech University of Life Science, Faculty of Forestry and Wood Sciences. “Reconstructing climate and disturbance dynamics in central Europe from insect remains”. Successfully defended on 12 March 2021.

2010 – 2012 Master of Science Ecology and Natural Resource Management (spec. Paleoecology) at Utrecht University, Utrecht, The Netherlands

2006 – 2009 Bachelor of Science Biology at Utrecht University, Utrecht, The Netherlands

## Current position and activities

2024 Postdoctoral researcher, Quaternary research lab, Nature Research Centre (Postdoc Individual Fellowship 2024-2026)

- Quaternary entomology, Late Glacial, Early Holocene

2022 – March 2024 Postdoctoral researcher, Global Change Research group. Czech University of Life Sciences, Prague, Czech Republic.

- Modeling pest outbreaks in iLand (forest simulation software)

2021 – present Entomo-archaeology: identifying beetle remains from archaeological samples. Short contracts.

## Previous research experience

2020 – 2022 Postdoctoral researcher, BESTFORCE: *Beech spruce temperate forest change* Changes in central European forests during the Holocene. Czech University of Life Sciences, Prague, Czech Republic.

- Fossil insect and botanical macro remain analysis from peat bogs, lakes, cave sediments and archeological sites

2016 – 2021 PhD in Quaternary entomology: *Reconstructing past disturbance dynamics in mountain spruce forests from fossil insect remains*

2016 – 2018 Post-graduate Researcher, PEDECO project, Czech University of Life Sciences.

- Coring lakes and peat bogs
- Identification of fossil beetle assemblages
- Environmental reconstructions based on fossil beetle assemblages
- Linking past bark beetle occurrences to other fossil proxies for disturbances (pollen, charcoal)

2015 – 2016 Guest researcher, Naturalis Leiden.

- Taking sediment surface samples from a small pond
- Using flotation methods on bulk sediment, picking insect remains
- Beetle identifications by using a reference collection

2011 Palynologist, Utrecht University

- Holocene pollen identifications from a site in Norway
- Creation of pollen diagrams in TILIA

## **Skills**

### Practical

- Fieldwork (Netherlands, Sweden, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Ukraine, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania)
- Presentations (see Conference presentations)
- Scientific writing (see Publications)
- Peer-reviewing of scientific articles

### Proxies

- Coleoptera (picking, identification, ecological grouping, environmental interpretation)
- Trichoptera (picking, identification, environmental interpretation)
- Botanical macro remains (picking, identification, environmental interpretation)
- Pollen (pollen slide preparation, Holocene pollen counting and identification, environmental interpretation)

### Analytics

- Insects (environmental properties, vegetation composition)
- Botanical macro remains (environmental properties, vegetation structure)
- Pollen (vegetation reconstruction, comparing with other proxies)
- Sedimentary analysis (correlation of sediment cores, erosion events)
- Past climate modeling (Modern Analogue Technique in R)
- SQL databases

### Software

- MS Word, Excel, Powerpoint (preparing manuscripts; data collation; and presentations)
- R statistical program (Cluster diagrams, PCA biplots, diversity indexes, plots, point coordinates on maps, editing data and regression figures)
- BugsCEP MCR software (climatic envelopes for insect species)
- CorelDraw (improvement of figures)
- GBIF (distribution data collection)
- iLand software (individual-based forest simulations) and BITE (iLand module in Javascript).

## **Teaching experience**

2023 - 2024	Vilnius University, lectures Bachelor/Master "Introduction to palaeoecology"
2021	Case Western State University, guest lecture "Climate reconstructions from beetles"
2017	Charles University, Czech Republic, guest lecture "Beetle remains in lake sediments"

## **Personal grants**

2023	Postdoc Individual Fellowship – Lithuanian research Council (P-PD-23-192)
2021	Prof Stoklasa Award for the best graduates of doctoral degree programs (FFWS)
2019	Faculty of Forestry and Wood Sciences, internal grant 19/4
2018	Faculty of Forestry and Wood Sciences, internal grant A06/18
2017	Additional stipend for PhD internship, Faculty of Forestry and Wood Sciences
2017	Erasmus+, PhD student, 6 months at Plymouth University (United Kingdom)
2017	Faculty of Forestry and Wood Sciences, internal grant A21/17
2011	Erasmus+, Master student. 5 months at Linneuniversitetet, Kalmar (Sweden)
2011	Erasmus+, Master student. 2 months at Leeds University (United Kingdom)

## **Travel grants**

2023	EPD workshop, INQUA travel grant (ECR)
2021	ECBC, reduction of registration fee (ECR)
2019	QRA INQUA travel grant
2018	EGU General Assembly 2018, refund of expenses
2018	ELC-ePANDDA-Earthrates Demo Derby workshop, refund of expenses
2017	PAGES Forest Dynamics workshop, refund of expenses
2017	PAGES YSM and OSM congress, refund of expenses

## **Workshops and summer schools**

2023	Model-data assimilation workshop, Northern Arizona University, online.
2023	European Pollen/Palaeo Database workshop, Gottingen, Germany
2022	Geochronology course. NEIF, East Kilbride, Scotland
2021	Data manipulation in palaeoecology with R program. BES Palaeo SIG, online.
2019	Funding starts here - Grant writing for early-career researchers. PAGES ECN workshop, Prague, Czech Republic [Co-organizer]
2018	International summer school on Bayesian modeling, Bergen, Norway
2018	ELC-ePANDDA-Earthrates Demo Derby database workshop, Madison University, Wisconsin

## Conference presentations (selection)

- 2023 CPEG Vilnius, oral presentation and poster presentation
- 2023 European Conference on Ecological Modeling, poster presentation
- 2022 Forest Disturbances and Ecosystem Dynamics in Changing World Symposium - Poster
- 2022 European Conference of Conservation Biology, oral presentation
- 2021 *From Dung Beetle to Bark Beetle: Using beetle remains to reconstruct long-term and short-term landscape dynamics in Central Europe*. ECBC, online poster presentation
- 2020 *A 1400-year-long record of natural disturbances in Central Europe under anthropogenic pressure*. QRA Annual Discussion Meeting, online poster presentation.
- 2019 *Dynamics of a bark beetle community in a Norway spruce forest in the High Tatra Mountains, Slovakia*. IUFRO working party meeting, Suceava, Romania, poster presentation.
- 2019 *Dynamics of a forest beetle community in a Norway spruce forest in the High Tatra Mountains, Slovakia*. INQUA 2019, Dublin, Ireland, oral presentation.
- 2018 *The role of beetle communities in past forest dynamics in a Norway spruce forest in the High Tatra Mountains, Slovakia*. EGU General Assembly, Vienna, Austria, PICO presentation.
- 2018 *Historical forest dynamics in a Norway spruce forest in the High Tatra Mountains, Slovakia*. QRA ADM 2018, Plymouth, United Kingdom, oral presentation.
- 2017 *Linking fossil bark beetles to the disturbance history of the Šumava National Park, Czech Republic*. PAGES YSM and OSM, Zaragoza, Spain, poster presentation.

## Scientific peer-reviewed publications

- 2024 **N. Schafstall** et al. *Assessing the effect of invasive organisms on forests under information uncertainty: The case of Pine Wood Nematode in continental Europe* (in review)
- 2024 **N. Schafstall** et al. *Ten tips to publish your paleoecology research in other journals* (in review)
- 2023 **N. Schafstall** et al. The absence of disturbances promoted the expansion of silver fir (*Abies alba*) in the Bohemian Forest under drier conditions *Palaeogeography, Palaeoclimatology, Palaeoecology* (10.1016/j.palaeo.2023.111950)
- 2022 M. Lestienne, E. Jamrichová, N. Kuosmanen, A. Diaconu, **N. Schafstall**, V. Goliáš, G. Kletetschka, V Šulc, P. Kuneš. Development of high diversity beech forest in the Eastern Carpathians. *Journal of Biogeography* (10.1111/jbi.14562)
- 2021 **N. Schafstall** et al. Using a fossil bark beetle record as indicator of past bark beetle outbreaks in temperate *Picea abies* forests. *Quaternary Science Reviews* (10.1016/j.quascirev.2021.107289)
- 2020 N Kuosmanen, V. Čada, K. Halsall, R.C. Chiverrell, **N. Schafstall**, P. Kuneš, J.F. Boyle, M. Knížek, P.G. Appleby, M. Svoboda, J.L. Clear. Integration of dendrochronological and palaeoecological disturbance reconstructions in temperate mountain forests. *Forest Ecology and Management* (10.1016/j.foreco.2020.118413)
- 2020 **N. Schafstall** et al. Changes in species composition and diversity of a montane beetle community over the last millennium in the High Tatras, Slovakia: Implications for forest conservation and management. *Palaeogeography, Palaeoclimatology, Palaeoecology* (<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.palaeo.2020.109834>).
- 2019 **N. Schafstall** et al. Late Glacial and Holocene records of tree-killing conifer bark beetles in Europe and North America: Implications for forest disturbance dynamics. *The Holocene* (<https://doi.org/10.1177/0959683620902214>)
- 2019 D. Vondrák, **N.B. Schafstall**, P. Chvojka, R.C. Chiverrell, N. Kuosmanen, J. Tátosová, J.L. Clear. Postglacial succession of caddisfly (Trichoptera) assemblages in a central European montane lake. *Biologia* (<https://doi.org/10.2478/s11756-019-00249-4>)