

# Curriculum Vitae

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## Degrees

- 28.05.2020: *Docentship in Systematics*, University of Helsinki, Finland.
- 16.01.2016: *Ph.D.* in Biology, University of Oslo, Norway.
- 05.07.2010: *M.Sc. & B.Sc.* in Natural Sciences (**Honors Diploma**) , Kaluga State University, Russia.

## Current employment

- 2021–2026: Academy Research Fellow, Finnish Museum of Natural History, University of Helsinki.
- 2019–present: Entomology Curator, Finnish Museum of Natural History, University of Helsinki.

## Previous work experience

- 2018–2019: Postdoctoral Fellow, Virginia Tech, Department of Biological Sciences.
- 2016–2018: Postdoctoral Fellow, National Institute for Mathematical & Biological Synthesis (NIMBioS), University of Tennessee.
- 2014: Research Assistant, Natural History Museum, University of Oslo.
- 2009–2011: Research Assistant, Natural History Museum of Denmark, University of Copenhagen.

## Research funding and grants

- 2021–2026: Academy of Finland, Research Fellow grant (PI): **€944,000**.
- 2021–2023: University of Helsinki, Three-year Grant (PI): **€150,000**.
- 2020–2024: Academy of Finland, Project Grant (PI): **€490,000**.
- 2016: NIMBioS (University of Tennessee), collaborators' visit grant: **\$1,600**.
- 2016: NIMBioS (University of Tennessee), Postdoctoral Fellowship: **\$104,000**.
- 2013: Synthesys Travel Grant, Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle (Paris): **€ 3,500**.
- 2011: Ph.D. Scholarship, Norwegian Government: **\$57,000**.
- 2011: Martin Fellowship Visiting Grant, Naturalis Biodiversity Center (Leiden): **\$3,200**.
- 2011: EDIT Educational Grant, University of Copenhagen: **\$700**.
- 2010: Synthesys Travel Grant, Natural History Museum in Budapest: **\$2,500**.
- 2009: Field Museum (Chicago, USA), Travel Grant: **\$1,500**.
- 2009: Synthesys Travel Grant, British Museum: **\$5,000**.
- 2009: Ernst Mayr Travel Grant in Animal Systematics (Harvard University):, **\$1,500**.

## Research products

- **2024:** [Archival DNA protocol](#) (supervision, development).
- **2024:** [ontophylo](#) R package for phenomic analyses (supervision, development).
- **2023:** [rphenoscate](#) R package for trait analyses (contributed to development).
- **2023:** [phenospy](#) Python package for semantic analyses of phenomes (development).
- **2023:** [Phenoscript computer language](#) for semantic phenotype description, with VS Code plugin (development).
- **2022:** [ontoFAST](#) R package for ontology-informed character annotations (development).

## Supervision and Leadership

- **2019–present:** Team leader and Principal Investigator (PI) of a research group at the Finnish Museum of Natural History.
- **2025–present:** Supervising postdoctoral researcher Salvador Arias.
- **2022–2024:** Supervised and mentored three postdocs (Diego Proto, Fernando Lopes, Michele Rossini), one graduate student (Thomas Merrien), and two undergraduate trainees (Federica Losacco, Giulio Montanaro). Providing guidance in research activities, professional development, and career advancement.
- **2019–2020:** Mentored visiting graduate students Marcelly Valois (Universidade Federal do Pará) and Sheila Cassenote Ferreira (Universidade Federal de Santa Maria).
- **2007–2008:** Co-supervised M.Sc. and B.S. students Bounpachan Bounthala and Kaison Silaphong at the University of Laos (in collaboration with Alexei Streltsov).

## Teaching merits

- **2019–present:** Annual ForBio Phylogenetic course (University of Bergen) – Teaching modeling trait evolution (with Dimitar Dimitrov).
- **2019–present:** Biennial course Introduction to Phylogenetics (IPS-164, University of Helsinki; with Jaakko Hyvönen).
- **2023:** Workshop on computable phenotype descriptions of Hymenoptera (International Congress of Hymenopterists; with Diego Porto & István Mikó).
- **2023:** Workshop on reconstructing evolutionary dynamics of phenomes (Evolution meeting; with Diego Porto).
- **2019:** Phylogenetic course (LUOMUS, Helsinki) – Teaching modeling trait evolution.
- **2017:** Phylogenetics for advanced high school students (Kaluga, Russia).
- **2017:** 3D Imaging and novel approaches to biosystematics (NHM Vienna).
- **2015:** Identification of Dung Beetles (Federal University of Mato Grosso; with Fernando Vaz-de-Mello).
- **2010:** Assisting at Terrestrial Zoology field course (University of Copenhagen).

## Honors and Awards

- **2020:** Recognition for Excellent Performance in Research and Administration, Finnish Museum of Natural History.
- **2014:** Willi Hennig Award for Best Student Talk, Willi Hennig Society Meeting (Trento, Italy).
- **2011:** Medal of the Russian Academy of Sciences for Best MSc Research in Russia.
- **2010:** Nominee for the Bernhard Rensch Prize for Biological Systematics.
- **2009:** Best Student of the Year Award, Kaluga University.
- **2006:** Chizhevsky Award, Federal Agency of Education, Kaluga.
- **2005:** Youth in Science Award, Federal Agency of Education, Obninsk.
- **2004:** Timofeev-Ressovsky Award, Federal Agency of Education, Kaluga.

### Other Key Academic Merits

- **2024:** Opponent of a doctoral dissertation for Roberta Hunt, University of Copenhagen.
- **2024:** Invited speaker, University of Pisa, Italy.
- **2023:** Invited speaker at the Evolution meeting, Albuquerque, USA.
- **2022:** Invited speaker at the annual meeting of GfBS: Gesellschaft für Biologische Systematik.
- **2021:** Invited speaker at the Taxon Works Together event, University of Illinois, USA.
- **2020:** Invited speaker, University of Bristol, UK.
- **2018:** Invited speaker, Virginia Tech, USA.
- **2017:** Invited speaker at the Evolution meeting, Portland, USA.
- **2014:** Invited speaker at X Reunión Latinoamericana de Scarabaeoidología, Colombia.
- **2015–2016:** Student Councilor, Board of the Coleopterists Society.
- **2013–2016:** Subject Editor for Scarabaeinae, *Zootaxa*.
- Peer-reviewer for journals (e.g., *Systematic Biology*, *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*, *Systematic Entomology*, *Cladistics*, *the Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society*, etc.).
- Contributor to *The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species*, conducting species assessments of dung beetles.

### Scientific and Societal Impact

- **2024:** Media coverage and interview “**Scientists develop a new computer language to model organismal traits**” featured on [Phys.org](#), [Bioengineering.org](#), [ScienceDaily](#), [EurekaAlert](#) and [Pensoft Blog](#).
- **2023:** Media coverage and interview in **New Scientist**, “[Dung beetles’ feeding habits can be used to track endangered lemurs.](#)”
- **2022:** Media coverage in German on [artensterben.de](#), “[First extinct, then discovered: the scarab beetle.](#)”
- **2020:** Video interview for **Eco Sapien** YouTube channel, “[Are dung beetles important?](#)”
- **2019:** Publication for the general public “[Striking facts about dung beetles](#)”.
- **2017:** Video interview on “[Anatomic Evolution](#)” for the video channel of the *National Institute for Mathematical & Biological Synthesis (USA)*.
- **2014:** Participating in a Ted-like show, **Forsker Grand Prix**, on central TV (NRK, Norway), presenting “[Evolutionary history of dung beetles: unraveling the mystery.](#)”