



Biodiv

Annual Meeting 2024

"Crossroads of Knowledge:
Academia or Industry?"

Invited speakers



Mafalda Ferreira
(Uppsala University)



Leonor Rodrigues
(cE3c)



Joana Paupério
(EMBL-EBI)



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Mafalda Ferreira



I am interested in how species adapt to their local environments, in particular how organisms in highly seasonal environments maintain fitness across the sometimes-drastic changes in conditions between seasons. During my PhD at CIBIO-InBIO, University of Porto and University of Montana, I studied the evolution of seasonal camouflage, an alternation between winter and brown coats that allows northerly distributed mammals and bird species to remain camouflaged throughout the yearly variation in snow cover. My PhD was focused on determine which genes determine variation in seasonal camouflage in hares, but also study the role of hybridization between species for the evolution of the trait. After my PhD, I moved to Sweden for a MSCA postdoctoral position at Uppsala University, where I am studying the evolution and functional role of chromosomal inversions to adaptation to temperature variation in the ocean in Atlantic herring. In this system, I am interested as well in how introgression from other species has allowed adaptation to novel environments, including the colonization of the Baltic Sea from the Atlantic ocean. I will start an Assistant Professor Position at the Department of Zoology and Science for Life Laboratory at Stockholm University in June 2024, where I will continue to focus on aspects of seasonal adaptation with emphasis on seasonal camouflage in a new system, the ptarmigans.



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Leonor Rodrigues



My academic education is in evolutionary ecology. During my PhD, and first postdoc at the University of Lisbon, in collaboration with the University of Montpellier, I investigated the consequences of multiple mating, as well as the impact of population structure on the evolution of sexual conflict and sex allocation, in the spider mite *Tetranychus urticae*, a polyphagous cosmopolitan crop pest. Then, I moved to Stockholm University to investigate the impact of high temperature in reproductive traits, using the fruit fly *Drosophila melanogaster*. I moved back to the University of Lisbon in 2020, to study the adaptation of crop pests to their host plants in the presence of competitors and metal pollutants, and the impact of heat on herbivores' reproductive interactions, in the pursuit of contributing more significantly to agricultural sustainability. At the same time, with this goal in mind, I joined "Caravana AgroEcológica", a project that aims at linking Portuguese farmers, consumers, and researchers through agroecology. The direct contact I have been establishing with sustainable farmers has strengthened my decision to position my research at the intersection between applied and fundamental science. Currently, I work at the University of Lisbon as a Junior Researcher and investigate the adaptive responses of spider mites to multiple stressors.



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Joana Paupério



Joana Paupério is a biologist working as a biodiversity project manager at the European Nucleotide Archive (EMBL-EBI - European Molecular Biology Laboratories - European Bioinformatics Institute). She worked for several years in research, where her interests focused on evolutionary history, ecology and conservation genetics using small mammals as model species. She was involved in developing and applying molecular tools for population monitoring and the conservation of endangered small mammals, while integrating it with biological and landscape data. Currently, she coordinates data sharing in biodiversity genomics projects, collaborating with several European partners in data integration and interoperability for making biodiversity genomics data FAIR.