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CURRENT POSITION

University of Oulu
PhD student

Oulu, Finland
2016-present

About myself

Currently I'm a PhD student and I plan to defend the thesis in December or January depending on formalities. I have been working with spiders since 2007 as an undergraduate student at Belarusian State University. There was a break in 2010-2011 when I did my first master's degree at the same university. There was little demand for faunistic research in spiders therefore I did a work about leaf-mining insects. After that I worked for three years at National Academy of Sciences of Belarus which resulted in updated version of the Belarusian spiders' checklist and inventory of *Dolomedes plantarius* in Belarus. However, there was small room for advancing in the topics and I did my second Masters' degree at University of Oulu as population geneticists with focus on molecular systematics of several *Alopecosa* and *Pardosa* species. My supervisor is Dr Marko Mutanen. As the project was successful, I stayed in the team and continued working in Lycosidae species delimitation applying NGS and DNA barcoding to address questions of systematics and taxonomy. At the moment I have two publications about these topics and three drafts that are in process of being submitted. The project deals with application of ddRAD sequencing method to explain low divergence between majorly *Pardosa* species with the sampling covering Nearctic and Palearctic realms. In addition I'm working on assessment of this particular molecular method for higher level systematics in Lycosidae with samples from all continents except for South America.

My vision of the ESA

I have not been very active as a member, however, I've made contacts with arachnologists around the globe in order to get the samples. The ideas of implementing sequencing data to study spiders was not always welcome but when it was, it resulted in high quality publications as well as spurred further research.

I see a great future in molecular methods applied to systematics, taxonomy and ecology of arachnids. There are works that appear on regular basis. As a member of the council I would be glad to facilitate unified efforts in creating reliable database containing all molecular data for all arachnids. It is absolutely crucial to create a functioning network of specialists that could provide samples, facilities and computational environment to move studies to the modern level. I see ESA moving toward molecular era and I would be glad to help with finding funding and connecting specialists to each other. As a result the ESA can become one of the organizations that can provide society with needed information about all arachnids and support for basic research in all European countries and beyond.