



Join us at the

Helsinki-Day

PhD-Symposium 2026

of the Department of Biology

KEYNOTES

Dr. Helena Wirta

Umeå University

Dr. Stefaniya Kamenova

National Museum of Natural
History of Sofia

HS 02.11

09:00 – 18:00

27.03.2026

for all biology students
& institute members

Drinks and food!

Prizes for best
talk and poster



PhD students
oral presentations



Master students
poster presentations



Counts for
Biological Colloquium



UNIVERSITY OF GRAZ

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09:00-09:15	Opening words
09:15-10:15	Keynote by Dr. Stefaniya Kamenova: <i>“A roadmap for trophic ecology”</i>
10:15-11:00	PhD-Talk Session 1 Raphael Donnabaum: <i>“Hidden Diversity in the Alps: Population Structure and Genetic Diversity of Austrian Alpine Salamanders”</i> Verena Haring: <i>“Time-series on Central European grassland vegetation to study the impacts of country-level landscape dynamics on biodiversity”</i> Moritz Mallach: <i>“Long-term & autonomous monitoring of aquatic biodiversity with hydroacoustics”</i>
11:00-11:30	Coffee break
11:30-12:45	PhD-Talk Session 2 Asma Fathinejadposhkoohi: <i>“Bioplatinas on buildings in urban environments: biofilters, CO2 sinks and cooling systems with an aesthetic-architectural effect”</i> Ruilin Chen: <i>“Mapping of Rodent-Induced Disturbance Impact on Biological Soil Crusts via Deep Learning-Informed Graph Cut”</i> Nikolaus Helmer: <i>“Exploring the behavioural patterns of the zebra mussel (<i>Dreissena polymorpha</i>)”</i> Alberto Comin: <i>“Reproductive barriers versus phylogenetic distance in cryptic <i>Gammarus fossarum</i> species”</i> Thomas Strohmeier: <i>“Austrian "snow scorpionflies" - Diversity jumping in all directions”</i>
12:45-14:00	Lunch break
14:00-15:00	Keynote by Dr. Helena Wirta: <i>“Changing Arctic, changing food webs: From species assemblages to shifting trophic interactions”</i>
15:00-16:15	Poster Session
16:15-17:15	PhD-Talk Session 3 Billur Küçüközmen: <i>“Primed in Summer: Tissue Specific Immune Gene Expression in Honeybee Castes”</i> Daniel Hofstadler : <i>“Continuous Basal Imaging: A Window into Honeybee Brood Development and Varroa Dynamics”</i> Laurenz Fedotoff: <i>“Using Expert Knowledge for Feature Engineering in Multimodal Neural Network Development”</i> Erwan Tilly: <i>“Ants give up earlier searching for food depending on what they see”</i>
17:15-17:30	Short break for Jury Decision
17:30-17:45	Final words and announcement of price winners
17:45-Open end	Drinks & get-together

Andrea Antes	Building a Database for Zooplankton of Austria based on optical and barcoding Data
Anna-Maria Greilberger	Diversity and Distribution of Tiger Beetles (Cicindelidae) in Austria: insights from phylogeography and species distribution modeling
Doris Kollegger	Automated assesment of Daphnia movement behavior for ecotoxicity studies
Elisabeth Kräuter	Species in Focus: Wanted or Unknown? Investigating Morphological Differences Among Species of Brachychthoniidae
Hannah Puckmayr	Effect of two Varroa destructor control concepts on honey bee colonies (<i>Apis mellifera</i>)
Johanna Royer	Resource limitation leads to hyperbolic cell cycle elongation in early metazoan development
Magdalena Reinalter	Characterization of new regulators of the cytokinin flowering pathway in Arabidopsis.
Michael Haag	Development of microsatellites in " <i>Gammarus fossarum</i> " and cross-species amplification in a cryptic species complex
Nora Schulz	Like Attracts Like: Assortative mating in <i>Gammarus fossarum</i>
Roman Burgsteiner	Revision of the <i>Pterostichus selmanni</i> subspecies (Coleoptera: Carabidae): an integrative taxonomic approach
Thomas Oswald	Psyllids (Hemiptera: Psylloidea) of Austria - A faunistic Review Integrating Molecular and Morphological Approaches
Tobias Hessinger	Investigating juvenile stages of lichen associated mites on <i>Cladonia rubrotincta</i>