



Universität
Basel

Research Project

Parasite-driven and immunogenetic diversification in Lake Tanganyika cichlid fishes

Third-party funded project

Project title Parasite-driven and immunogenetic diversification in Lake Tanganyika cichlid fishes

Principal Investigator(s) [Salzburger, Walter](#) ;

Co-Investigator(s) [Raeymaekers, Joost](#) ;

Organisation / Research unit

Departement Umweltwissenschaften / Evolutionary Biology (Salzburger)

Department

Project Website <http://www.evolution.unibas.ch/salzburger/index.htm>

Project start 01.09.2012

Probable end 31.08.2014

Status Completed

How organisms adapt to different environments and form new species is a central question in evolutionary biology. Cichlid fish of the East-African Great Lakes are the most diverse species assemblage of vertebrates on our planet. Even though they have become a model for speciation research, how and why they reached this enormous diversity remains difficult to explain based on current insights. One theory is that cichlids evolved through habitat diversification (e.g. adaptation to a substrate type), trophic diversification (evolution of different feeding strategies and adaptation to a specific diet) and communication diversification (e.g. evolution of different social interactions including colour- and odour-based mate recognition). However, different habitats, diets and social interactions might also lead to exposure to different parasite communities. This latter aspect will be surveyed in this project.

Financed by

Commission of the European Union

Add publication

Add documents

Specify cooperation partners