



Universität  
Basel

## Research Project

### CICHLIDX

#### Third-party funded project

**Project title** CICHLIDX

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

**Organisation / Research unit**

Departement Umweltwissenschaften / Evolutionary Biology (Salzburger)

**Department**

**Project start** 01.03.2014

**Probable end** 28.02.2019

**Status** Completed

More than 150 years after the publication of Charles Darwin's *The Origin of Species*, the identification of the processes that govern the emergence of novel species remains a fundamental problem to biology. Why is it that some groups have diversified in a seemingly explosive manner, while others have lingered unvaried over millions of years? What are the external factors and environmental conditions that promote organismal diversity? And what is the molecular basis of adaptation and diversification? A key to these and related questions is the comparative study of exceptionally diverse yet relatively recent species assemblages such as Darwin's finches, the Caribbean anole lizards, or the hundreds of endemic species of cichlid fishes in the East African Great Lakes, which are at the center of this proposal. More specifically, it is planned to conduct the so far most thorough examination of a large cichlid adaptive radiation in East Africa.

**Financed by**

Commission of the European Union

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