Water Research Group
Unit for Environmental Sciences and Management
Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences
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9 Questions with WRG authors

Title of the paper: Monophyly of the species of *Hepatozoon* (Adeleorina: Hepatozoidae) parasitizing (African) anurans, with the description of three new species from hyperoliid frogs in South Africa

Journal: Parasitology

Authors: **E.C. Netherlands**, C.A. Cook, L.H. Du Preez, M.P.M. Vanhove, L. Brendonck, N.J. Smit

Read the article: https://doi.org/10.1017/S003118201700213X

Edward C. Netherlands, M.Sc.

1. What previous work was integral to the new study?

In my MSc I published a paper "Biodiversity of frog haemoparasites from sub-tropical northern KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa", this study showed how understudied frog blood parasites are in this area.

Q&A WITH AUTHORS

2. Why do you care about this particular subject?

I am fascinated by the complexity and success of these microscopic parasites. I think there is still so much for us to learn from and about them.

3. Did any of the findings surprise you?

Yes, it was interesting to note how specific these blood parasite species are to hyperoliid frogs. With some being more specific, only infecting a particular species within the family.

4. What are some of the limitations of this study?

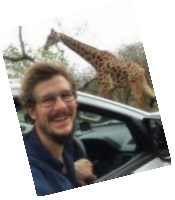
These parasites infect small reed and leaf-folding frogs that are not easy to extract blood from, making the sampling challenging. We also definitely need more data on the distribution ranges of these parasites.

5. Do you expect these findings to be controversial in your field?

Not really, I just think we don't have enough data yet.

6. What are the broader implications of these findings?

The description of three new species to science is an important finding in this day and age. It shows that there are still so many things we have no idea exists. Also, now we can start looking at the effects these parasites have on their hosts and the conservation implications this has.



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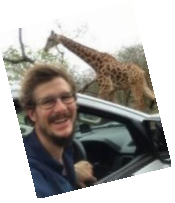
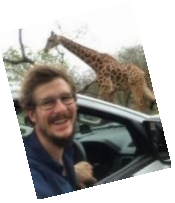
7. What do people usually get wrong about this subject?

Don't think too many people look at the blood of little frogs collected in some difficult sampling localities ;-) But I would guess identification based only on morphology can be challenging to the untrained eye.



8. Looking back on the study, what were some of the most memorable moments for you and your colleagues?

The fieldwork is definitely exciting! But, it is special to look through a microscope in the field and know that another person has probably never seen the unnamed species you are looking at.



9. What are you working on next?

At the moment... Finishing up my PhD on frog blood parasites, which means the description of several other new species and some interesting life cycle data.

Thank you for your time, Ed!

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