

## KEYWORDS

- » Zoology
- » Population Biology
- » Molecular Evolution
- » Biodiversity
- » Molecular Phylogeny



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## MOLECULAR EVOLUTION AND ANIMAL SYSTEMATICS

The working group Molecular Evolution and Animal Systematics investigates phylogenetic relationships of heterotrophic protists (Amoebozoa, Cercozoa, Ciliophora) and deep metazoan radiations with focus on basal deuterostome evolution.

The investigated characters are ribosomal RNA gene sequences, rRNA secondary structure, mitochondrial genomes and histone gene clusters. At the lower taxonomic level the research group develops diagnostic molecular tools for protist species identification and reconstruction of their geographic distribution.

Further, they analyse spatial and temporal genetic variation of animal populations using rapidly evolving molecular markers such as mitochondrial DNA sequences and microsatellites.

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