

The joint conference of the PhD students of study programs Ecosystem Biology & Ecology and Hydrobiology/Limnology

Date and place: January 28–29, 2025, 8:00 am, lecture room at B building, FSc USB České Budějovice

All students should attend both conference days and present their talks in person. In the case of stay abroad or illness (this fact please report immediately to egi@prf.jcu.cz, jersa@prf.jcu.cz, and dboukal@prf.jcu.cz in CC), students should negotiate alternative presentation at the KBE/183 seminars (every Thursday at 15:00, for free time slot requests kindly contact jkana@prf.jcu.cz ASAP).

Rationale: Presentations in front of the specialist board and peers aim not only to show the progress on the dissertation work, but also to provide positive motivation to improve the quality and to compare with the colleagues' works. Finding other possible approaches to research questions can be very positive in a broad discussion because the essence and principles of most theses can be complementary. Students should have their dissertations clearly defined by clear objectives from the beginning of their doctoral studies and should present the procedures and results to the committee regularly. Dissertations should be completed in time and in a high quality.

Objectives of the meeting:

- to present the progress of dissertation work since the last PhD conference
- to define research priorities for the next year of the PhD study
- to actively discuss the topic of the dissertation in a broader professional context, to consider other possible methodological approaches in the work

The presence of supervisors is necessary (kindly inform them in advance) at the presentations of their students, the participation of the wider professional audience is welcome.

Time length guidelines for student presentations:

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| 1 st year | - 5 min presentation + 10 min discussion
- short introduction of the PhD topic, context of the study, main aims and hypotheses, time schedule, preliminary topics/titles of the manuscripts |
| 2 nd year | - 10 min presentation + 10 min discussion
- summarize achievement of prescribed duties, focus on the progress of the work since the last meeting, possible suggestions for modification of the topic based on literature review |
| 3 rd year and higher | - 10 min presentation + 10 min discussion
- summarize achievement of prescribed duties, focus on the progress of work since the last meeting, mainly on new and <i>in prep.</i> publications |

Requirements and recommendations for preparation of student presentations:

The contents of your slides should (more or less) follow the suggested structure but you do not have to use the headings provided below. Total duration of **your presentation should not exceed the above maximal limits** (10 min presentation optimally consists of 10 slides).

1. **COMPULSORY prequel summarizing your current status** (1 slide): year of study, fulfilled duties (prescribed courses, conferences, stays abroad etc.), list of published/accepted papers and manuscripts in prep.
2. **Introduction**: Start by summarizing the **theoretical/conceptual framework** underlying your presentation. Include key **references** whenever possible (preferably shortened to authors, year, and journal abbreviation). Make it **simple for non-specialists**, use **pictures and graphs** whenever possible. At the end of this section, the audience should understand which question(s) and why you have studied. You may also want to include key hypothesis/es but avoid general hypotheses such as “humidity affects species composition of communities”.
3. **Material and methods**: Briefly **summarize your methods and/or study sites**. This should not be longer than the theoretical summary unless you really need it. Avoid excessive details. You may also explain methodology together with the results if time-saving convenient.
4. **Results**: Select only the **most important or most interesting** results in the context of the current state-of-art in the field. **Do not squeeze years of work into this presentation. Avoid complex tables** with statistical results or primary data. Use graphs and pictures which are simplified for non-specialists (especially simplify complicated molecular outputs with tiny letters), with font-size large enough to be visible from a distance. Do not use detailed statistical outputs. Use only meaningful number of significant digits (more digits do not mean better results). If you have only started and have no results yet, skip this part.
5. **Discussion and conclusions**: interpret your results **in the light of your framework** (see # 2). You may want to briefly remind the audience of the key concepts at this point. Briefly discuss your future plans if appropriate.
6. **Lay summary (1 slide)**: Do not forget to explain **why your work and results are interesting and/or important to wider public**. Imagine you should summarize your work and findings to your grandmother in two sentences. 😊