

CV	
PERSONAL INFORMATION	
Name, surname: Anna Mežaka Birth date, place: 28.09.1982, Aizkraukle, Latvia Address: Upes street 8, flat 3-4, Riga, Latvia, LV-1013 Email: anna.mezaka@du.lv Cell phone: +371 26873683	
EDUCATION	
2006 – 2009	Doctoral Studies in Biology, Department of Botany and Ecology, Faculty of Biology, University of Latvia (LUBF), Latvia. PhD Thesis defended September 28 th , 2009.
2007	LLLP/ERASMUS student exchange programme, Faculty of Biosciences, University of Helsinki, Finland.
2004 – 2006	Master Studies in Biology, LUBF, Latvia.
2001-2004	Bachelor Studies in Biology LUBF, Latvia
CURRENT POSITION	
2016-	Senior Researcher, Daugavpils University.
2020-	Visiting associate professor, Daugavpils University.
PREVIOUS POSITIONS	
2016 – 2019	Research Fellow of Marie Skłodowska Curie Action, Horizon 2020 framework Programme of the European Union (Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute; Ecological plant geography group, Faculty of Geography, Marburg University, Germany).
2016	Senior researcher, Daugavpils University.
2013 – 2016	Senior researcher, Research Institute for Regional Studies, Rezekne Higher Education Institution (RHEI), Latvia.
2014 – 2015	Researcher in the ESF Project: "Multidisciplinary young researcher's group for studies of Latvian wetlands and their resources, long-term use and protection", Institute of Biology, Agency of University of Latvia, Latvia.
2013 – 2015	Director, Research Institute for Regional Studies, RHEI, Latvia.
2014	Visiting lecturer, Faculty of Engineering, RHEI, Latvia.
2010 – 2013	Researcher, LUBF, Latvia.
2010 – 2011	Lecturer, Department LUBF, Latvia.
2007 – 2011	Scientific Assistant, LUBF, Latvia.
2009	Expert, Natura 2000 project, habitat and species monitoring. Latvian Fund for Nature.
2008 – 2010	Researcher, Daugavpils University, Latvia (project: Rare and protected invertebrate, vascular plants and fungi species occurrence in relation to forest management and protection history and dependence of the structures ensuring biodiversity Forest Development Fund)
2007	Biologist in Research project: "Changes of tree growth in influence of climate and environmental factors in relation with indicators of biodiversity", University of Latvia.
2006 – 2007	Project Assistant in European Social Fund project "Modernization of Master degree studies at the University of Latvia", LUBF, Latvia.
2005 – 2007	Biologist, LUBF, Latvia. Latvian Academy of sciences project: "The development and biodiversity of natural forests".
2006	Expert in project "Determination of biologically valuable grasslands", Latvian fund for nature.
AWARDS	
2012	Latvian Environmental Science and Education Council, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development award "Young Environmental Scientist 2012" for the important contribution in epiphytic bryophyte studies, Latvia.
2011	Latvian Ministry of Education and Science award for pedagogical work preparing pupils for International Biology Olympiad, Latvia.
2007	Latvian Academy of Sciences Young scientist award for the Master thesis – Epiphytic bryophytes in old – growth forests of slopes, screes and ravines, Latvia.
2007	Prize for the best scientific presentation in study course "Conservation biology in fragmented landscape", Tvärminne, Finland (authors: R. Belinchon, H. Fabritius, I. Hatlapatkova, J. Julkunen, A. Mezaka).

2006	University of Latvia, First prize in competition “Innovative idea” for idea – Mixture of four bryophytes, Riga, Latvia (authors: Ligita Liepiņa, Anna Mežaka, Linda Madžule).
2006	Fund of Latvian Education “For education, science and culture” recognition for the best Master thesis, - Epiphytic bryophytes in old-growth forests of slopes, screes and ravines, Riga, Latvia.
2006	Munster award, University of Latvia for Master thesis – Epiphytic bryophytes in old-growth forests of slopes, screes and ravines, Latvia.
2005, 2008	LUBF, First Prize for the best green section presentation in 2nd and in 4th International Biology Students Conference (InBisCo), Latvia.
2004, 2005	University of Latvia, Kristaps Morbergs scholarships, Latvia.
SUPERVISION OF STUDENT THESIS	
2021.-	Two PhD students (Daugavpils University).
2021-2022	Master Student, Daugavpils University.
2012 – 2013	Master student (Scientific consultant), Faculty of Geography and Earth Sciences, University of Latvia, Latvia.
2010 – 2011	Master student in biology, LUBF.
2008 -2010	Bachelor student in biology, LUBF.
INVITED PRESENTATIONS	
25.2.2022	Presentation about rare bryophytes. Online. Latvian Botanical Society.
12.3.2021	Presentation about bryophyte herbarium. Online. From field work to herbarium labelling. Latvian Botanical Society.
03.12.2014	Presentation at the seminar series of the Faculty of Geography, PUM, “Peatlands in Latvia – from conservation to management”. Marburg, Germany.
16.06.2010	Invited lecturer, “Epiphytic bryophyte and lichen variability in relation to hemiboreal forest elements in Latvia”. Duke University, Durham, USA.
07.03.2008	Invited lecturer in seminar for forest owners - “Bryophytes and lichens – important biodiversity elements in forests”.
01.-10.08.2007	Invited lecturer, „Epiphytic bryophytes in Latvia” in 11 th Symposium for Biology Students in Europe “SymBioSE2007”, oral presentation – Epiphytic bryophytes in Latvia, LUBF, Riga, Latvia.
EXPERT STATUS	
Latvian Council of Science, expert (biology), Latvia. European Commission expert	
RESEARCH EXPEDITIONS LEAD BY THE RESEARCHER	
2020.-	Several expeditions in forests, Latvia.
2016.-2019.	Research expeditions to Barro Colorado Island and Fortuna National Park in Panama, Panama.
2014	Bryological research expedition to Mordovia Nature Reserve, Russia. Funded by Mordovia Nature Reserve.
2012	Bryological and lichenological expedition to Bashkiria National Park, Bashkiria, Russia. Funded by EU Triple I programme for postdoctoral studies.
2009 – 2010	Research expeditions to different forest habitats in Oregon, California, North Carolina, Washington, USA. Funded by Fulbright Scholarship.
2010	Research expedition to Western Canada, Canadian Rockies forest habitats. Funded by the Fulbright Scholarship.
2004 – 2015	Several expeditions in Latvian forest habitats, Latvia. Funded by the Latvian Science Council, European Social Fund scholarships, Riga City Council.
2016-2019	Barro Colorado Island, Panama, Marie Skłodowska Curie Action, Horizon 2020 framework Programme of the European Union
ORGANISING SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS	
3-12.7.2023	International Bryology Summer School: from bryophyte identification to practical use 2023, Daugavpils University (16 participants), Ilgas, Daugavpils, Latvia.
1.-7.8.2022	International Bryology seminar 2022, Ilgas, Daugavpils University (30 participants from 9 countries, students, scientists, practitioners). Daugavpils, Latvia.
20.-29.09.2020	International Bryology Summer school: From Bryophyte identification to practical use

16.6.2014	(online). Daugavpils, Latvia (10 International students). The half year's General meeting of Research Institute for Regional Studies, Latvia. Organizing and participation (leading), 20 participants. Rēzekne, Latvia.
10.1.2014	The General meeting of Research Institute for Regional Studies, Latvia. Organizing and participation (leading, giving the presentation), 24 participants. Rēzekne, Latvia.
31.7.- 7.8.2011	International Bryology Seminar in Pitagi, Latvia. The participation and organization of the event, 10 participants from Latvia, Great Britain and Ireland. Pitagi, Latvia.
15.-18.12.2008	PRIFOR Classics meeting in Alūksne, Latvia. Taking part in organizing the event, giving the presentation, 30 participants from Great Britain, Latvia, Finland, France, Sweden, Norway, Russia.
INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES	
2022-today	Senator of the Daugavpils University Senate.
2016-today	Member of the Doctoral board (Daugavpils University, Latvia).
2015 -	Head of the the Latvian bryological group in Latvian Botanical Society (LBS)
2013-2015	Member of RHEI Scientific Council.
MEMBERSHIPS OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES AND NETWORKS	
LBS – Latvian Botanical Society, member of the board in 2007-2009, supervisor of the Latvian Bryophyte group. BES – Member of British Ecological Society. IAB – International Association of Bryologists (USA), member. BBS – British Bryological Society (Great Britain), member. ABLS – American Bryological and Lichenological Society (United States of America), member. IRN COLD FORESTS – International research network, member	
LANGUAGE SKILLS	
Latvian – mother tongue English – very good (C1 level, passed TOEFL, GRE tests) Russian – good German – A1-1 level (certificate) Spanish – Intermediate level (certificate)	
EXPERIENCE WITH DATA ANALYSIS SOFTWARES	
R, SPSS, Canoco for Windows, PCord, Past, Arcpad, Arcmap, Collector	
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OR TRAINING COURSES	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understanding & coding the R programming language, Institution: Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences Date: 11/2021 Writing lab - Writing Scientific Publications in the Life and Natural Sciences, Institution: Marburg University Date: 12/2018 EMF - Writing Grant Proposals in Science, Institution: Marburg University Date: 07/2019 Writing Lab - Writing Flow Techniques Institution: Marburg University Date: 07/2019 How to Design Scientific Figures, Institution: Marburg University Date: 11/2018 Project management for Scientists, Institution: Marburg University Date: 12/2018 Writing Lab - Writing Flow Techniques, Institution: Marburg University Date: 11/2018 EMF - Writing Grant Proposals in Science, Institution: Marburg University Date: 12/2018 Advanced Programming in R, Institution: Marburg University Date: 10/2018 	
PARTICIPATION IN IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES	
7.-10.6.2022.	5 th conference of Nordic Society OIKOS: Ecology and Evolution for a changing world. Poster presentation: Lesson from the transplantation experiments: does rare epiphytes see substrate or forest stand in boreo-nemoral forests? Aarhus, Denmark.
9.-13.5.2022	30th Conference of the European Vegetation Survey: Plant communities in changing environment. Oral presentation: Importance of forest characteristics in rare epiphytic bryophyte and lichen occurrence within boreo-nemoral landscape. Plant Science and Biodiversity Center

	SAS, Bratislava, Slovakia.
12.-13.5.2021.	XIX International conference of students and young scientists “Shevchenkivska vesna: Bioscience Advances”. Moss functional traits in black alder swamp forests: case study. Kyiv, Ukraine.
10.-13.12.2019.	British Ecological Society Annual meeting. Epiphyll community spatial structure and dynamics in a tropical lowland rainforest (Oral presentation). Belfast, United Kingdom.
24.-26.7.2019.	22nd Symposium of Cryptogamic Botany. Spatial dynamics within epiphyll communities in a tropical lowland rainforest (Oral presentation). Lisbon, Portugal.
8.-12. 7.2019.	International Bryology Conference. “The development of spatial structure in epiphyll communities in a tropical lowland rainforest” (oral presentation). Madrid, Spain. https://bryo64.wixsite.com/epidyn/presentations
26.-28.03.2018.	European Conference of Tropical Ecology. Changes in the composition of epiphyllous communities with leaf age, host species and microclimate in a tropical lowland rainforest (oral presentation). Paris, France.
23.2.2018.	Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute Fellow Symposium. “Environmental dependencies of epiphyll community composition in a tropical lowland forest” (oral presentation). Panama, Panama.
14.-26.08.2017.	Presentation of the project results at STRI course "Taxonomy and bryology of Tropical Bryophytes". “Epiphyll dynamics in relation to environmental variables in Barro Colorado Island” (oral presentation). Bocas del Toro, Panama.
25.-29.07.2015	Botany 2015. Science and plants for people. Edmonton. “Vegetation response to physical and chemical variables in raised bog ecosystems: case study from Latvia” (oral presentation). Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.
24.-26.06.2012	International bryological conference, dedicated to 100 year anniversary of R.N. Schljakov. “Tree and stand level factors determining the distribution of epiphytic bryophytes in deciduous woodland key habitats” (oral presentation). Apatiti, Murmansk, Russia.
12.08.2012	Northern Primeval Forests, Ecology, Conservation & Management. “Importance of tree and forest stand level factors in relation to epiphytic cryptogam communities in Latvian old-growth deciduous forests” (oral presentation). Sundsvall, Sweden.
25.03.2010	North West scientific association 82nd annual meeting. Lichenology session. “Epiphytic cryptogam ecological characteristics in European hemiboreal forests, Latvia” (oral presentation). Centralia, Washington State, USA.
19.04.2008	4th International Biology Students Conference (InBisCo). “Transplantation experiments of moss <i>Neckera pennata</i> and lichen <i>Lobaria pulmonaria</i> in old-growth forest and managed deciduous forest, Latvia” (oral presentation). LUBF, Riga, Latvia.
23.-28.07.2007	World conference of Bryology. “Flora and ecology of epiphytic bryophytes in old-growth slope, scree and ravine forests Latvia, Europe (poster presentation). Crystal Crown hotel, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
21.-25.11.2005	Conservation Ecology of Cryptogams, poster presentation. “Epiphytic bryophyte distribution in natural Latvian forests of slopes, screes and ravines” (poster presentation). Bispgården, Sweden.
PATENT	
LU patent. L. Liepiņa, V. Nikolajeva, A. Mežaka , G. Krūmiņa. Bryophyte <i>Lophocolea heterophylla</i> or their substance using in washing material compositions. Application Nr. P-07-140, 07.12.2007. Patent Nr. LV13815.	
SCIENCE FOR GENERAL PUBLIC	
Demonstration of bryophytes and lichens to general public during Researcher’s night activities in Latvia in 2008, 2009, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2015, 2021, 2022.	
Life on a leaf:	
Introducing bryophytes and lichens to International and local tourists on Barro Colorado Island, to local and International students, Panama: https://bryo64.wixsite.com/epidyn/public-engagement Press release for general public: In Panama in English and Spanish:	

<https://stri.si.edu/story/life-leaf>
https://twitter.com/stri_panama/status/1011657926044475393
https://www.facebook.com/PuntaCulebra/posts/10156627170664835?__tn__=-UC-R
<https://www.laestrella.com.pa/cafe-estrella/planeta/180624/vida-hoja-detras-bosque-tropical>
 In Germany in German:
<https://www.abitur-und-studium.de/Blogs/Universitaet-Marburg/Biogeografinnen-testen-Theorien-ueber-Biodiversitaet>
 Participation in British Ecological society conference press release in Latvian:
<https://du.lv/daugavpils-universitates-dzivibas-zinatnu-un-tehnologiju-instituta-vadosa-petniece-dr-biol-anna-mezaka-prezenteja-petijumu-prestiza-starptautiska-britu-ekologijas-biedribas-konference/>

Bryology Summer School

Video about bryophytes to general public:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z0BSGPE5Mzc>
<https://www.facebook.com/Bryology-Summer-School-From-Bryophyte-Identification-to-Practical-Use-114015136827883/>

Epiphytic bryophytes and lichens in Latvian manor parks:

Talk at the Latvian national radio:
<https://www.lsm.lv/raksts/dzive--stils/vide-un-dzivnieki/latvijas-muizu-parkos-peta-sunas-un-kerpjus.a360049/>

Fulbright programme experience in research in Latvian:

<https://www.lu.lv/par-mums/lu-mediji/zinas/zina/t/1957/>

SOCIAL VISIBILITY

Participation as an expert in **Nature Conservation plan implementation. Recommendations** to the Nature Conservation agency for the environmental friendly habitat management. Interviews with national radio and television and press about the importance of the bryophyte and lichen research to the general public.

Life on a leaf:

<https://bryo64.wixsite.com/epidyn/public-engagement>

Bryology Summer School:

Project homepage:

<https://du.lv/en/bryology-summer-school-from-bryophyte-identification-to-practical-use-2020/>

Press release for general public about finishing the Bryology Summer School:

<http://sciences.lv/veiksmigi-noslegusies-pirma-briologijas-vasaras-skola-latvija-tiessaiste/>

Epiphytic bryophytes and lichens in Latvian manor parks:

Project description and importance to the biodiversity conservation in Latvian:

http://travelnews.lv/?pub_id=122271

<https://preili.lv/203267/preilu-parka-peta-sunas-un-kerpjus/>

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=2636502009783459&id=281993251901025&__tn__=H-R

<https://www.facebook.com/vadakstesmuiza/posts/690345165158626/>

Rare lichen record, publication in Latvian Social media:

http://lat.46.lv/ru/REZEKNES_ZINAS/12/11026/RA_docente_atklaj_jaunu_atradni_retam_kerpim_Ziemellatgale

<https://dabasdati.lv/lv/article/jauna-atradne-retam-kerpim-ziemellatgale/2015/>

<https://twitter.com/dabasdati/status/677848278919217152>

<https://www.diena.lv/raksts/latvija/zinas/uzieta-jauna-retas-kerpju-sugas-atradne-14123482>

New bryophyte records in Latvia:

<https://www.valmieraszinas.lv/gaujas-nacionalaja-parka-atklata-latvija-jauna-sunu-suga/>

<https://www.reitingi.lv/lv/news/izglitiba/56886-briologu-seminara-laika-latvija-atklaj-cetras-jaunas-sunu-sugas.html>

<https://www.delfi.lv/news/national/politics/briologu-seminara-laika-latvija-atklaj-cetras-jaunas-sunu-sugas.d?id=40030167>

Project about bryophytes and lichens in Riga city limits forest.

Popular science in Latvian (pages 40-41):

http://www.videsvestis.lv/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/VV_2014_147.pdf

Bryophyte book for general public in Latvian:

https://www.botanika.lu.lv/fileadmin/user_upload/lu_portal/botaniskais/2019/PAR_MUMS/AUGI/LV_FLORA/sunu_celvedis_jpg/Ievads.pdf

News about bryophytes in Latvia facebook page in Latvian:

<https://www.facebook.com/SunasLatvija/posts/1235462326468929/>

Volunteer in Children's home in Mežaparks, Riga, Latvia, December 2010.

Talsi TV interview about International bryology seminar in Pītagi, Sliteren National Park in Latvian (August, 2011).

Several times guest at Latvian radio about bryophyte research in Latvia.

Guest at the Latvian Television about bryophytes in Kaļķupe Nature Reserve (2005).

TEACHING ACTIVITIES

2020-	Visiting Associate professor. Protistology. Biology. Bachelor programme. Biodiversity study
	Field methods. Biology. Master programme. Daugavpils University, Daugavpils, Latvia.
2020	Supervisor and faculty. Bryology Summer School. Online course. International Bachelor,
	Master and PhD students. Daugavpils University, Daugavpils, Latvia
2019	Teaching bryophyte field course, Marburg University for Bachelor and Master students.
2018	Leading and teaching in field course for Master and PhD students about cryptogams on Barro
	Colorado Island. Organization for Tropical Studies. Panama, Panama.
2018	Lecture about Bioindication for Master students, Panama Technological University. Panama,
	Panama.
2014 – 2015	Visiting lecturer in BSc professional study programme, study course Introduction to
	Ecotourism. Introduction to Botany. Introduction to Ecology. Faculty of Economics and
	Management. RHEI.
2014 - 2015	Visiting lecturer, PhD study course “Methods in Bioindication”, Faculty of Engineering,
	RHEI, Latvia.
2015	Teaching bryophytes and lichens to Liepu preliminary school pupils during the environmental
	project at Ozolaine district, Rezekne region, Latvia.
2013	Lecturer in MSc study course “Bioindication. Lichenoindication”, LUBF.
2012	Lecturer in BSc study course “Practice in species biology”, Department of Geobotany and
	Plant Ecology, Faculty of Biology, Saint Petersburg State University, Russia.
2011, 2014	Teacher for pupils preparing for International Biology olympiad. RHEI, Latvia.
2010	Visiting faculty in Graduate level study course “Bryology”, Department of Botany and Plant
	Pathology, Oregon State University, USA.
2010 – 2011	Visiting lecturer in BSc study courses “Botany” for pharmacy students, "Introductory
	Biology”, “Botany” for biology students, LUBF, Latvia.
2008-2013	Lecturer in field study course “Bryophyte and Lichen Ecology and Systematics”, Latvia.
	LUBF, Latvia.
13.-	
16.10.2008	Teacher in “Woodland key habitat expert calibration seminar”, Alūksne district,
	Ziemeļu parish, Latvia.
2006 - 2009	Lecturer in BSc study courses Practical Ecology (multivariate statistics), General Ecology,
	Field course in Botany and Ecology I, II for Biology students, LUBF, Latvia.

Date: 08.09.2023

Anna Mežaka