Resolving a bioindicator diatom species complex using genomic approaches for freshwater biomonitoring

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List of Publications

Ciftci, O., Wagemaker, C.A.M., Mertens, A., van Bodegom, P., Pirovano,W., Gravendeel, B. 2023. Genotyping by sequencing for estimating relative abundances of diatom taxa in mock communities. BMC Ecology and Evolution, 23(1), 4.

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Ciftci, O., Chua, P., Kaynar, S. 2022. DNA from Water. In: De Boer H, Verstraete B, Rydmark M, Gravendeel B (eds). Molecular Identification of Plants: From Sequence to Species. Advanced Books, 1, e98875.

Chua, P., Lammers, Y., Ciftci, O. 2022. Metagenomics. In: De Boer H, Verstraete B, Rydmark M, Gravendeel B (eds). Molecular Identification of Plants: From Sequence to Species. Advanced Books, 1, e98875.

Pramanik, D., Ciftci, O., Woudstra, Y. 2022. Transcriptomics. In: De Boer H, Verstraete B, Rydmark M, Gravendeel B (eds). Molecular Identification of Plants: From Sequence to Species. Advanced Books, 1, e98875.

Ciftci, O., Karahan, A., AK Orek, Y., & Kideys, A. E. 2017. First record of the buccaneer anchovy *Encrasicholina punctifer* (Fowler, 1938) (Clupeiformes; Engraulidae) in the Mediterranean Sea, confirmed through DNA Barcoding. Journal of Applied Ichthyology, 33(3), 520-523.

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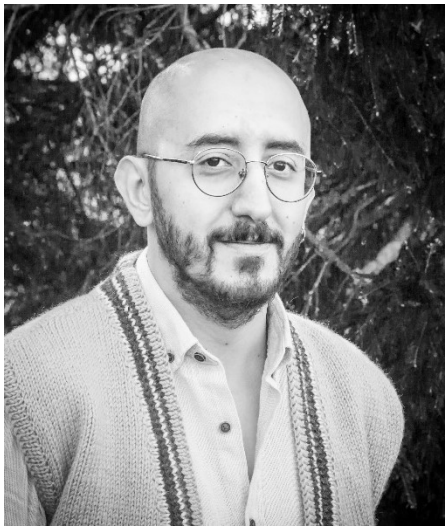
Curriculum Vitae



Ozan Çiftçi was born on November 6th, 1986, in Ankara, Turkey. In 2004, he graduated from Bornova Anatolian High School, a prominent school in Izmir. He started his academic journey in Molecular Biology and Genetics at the Middle East Technical University (METU) in Ankara. During this period, he cultivated a keen interest in ecology and evolutionary biology, which led him to undertake an internship and a B.Sc. project at METU's Limnology Laboratory under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Meryem Beklioğlu.

After earning his B.Sc. degree in 2013, Ozan started his MSc studies at the Institute of Marine Sciences of METU in Mersin, Turkey. His research project centered on the biodiversity of fish and invertebrates in Mersin Bay, in the Eastern Mediterranean. Employing phylogenetic and DNA barcoding techniques, he worked under the supervision of Asst. Prof. Dr. Arzu Karahan. Notably, his M.Sc. thesis documented the first Mediterranean record of an Indo-Pacific anchovy species. Ozan successfully obtained his M.Sc. degree in 2016 and subsequently joined Ankara University's Evolutionary Genetics Laboratory as a researcher. For two years, he focused on developing a local sequence database and data analysis pipelines for fish identification from water samples, and actively participated in several national and international projects.

In 2018, Ozan's journey led him to the Netherlands as a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Ph.D. Fellow in the European Plant.ID network at the Naturalis Biodiversity Center and Leiden University. In his project, he primarily investigated the reproductive history of the bioindicator diatom, *Nitzschia palea,* and evaluated a quantitative method for diatom biomonitoring using genome-scale approaches. These studies were performed under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Barbara Gravendeel and Prof. Dr. Peter M. van Bodegom and resulted in the research described in this thesis. Ozan is currently pursuing his career as a post-doctoral researcher at the Helmholtz Centre Potsdam, Germany, and will continue to focus on microalgal ecology and evolution by applying bioinformatics, genomics, next-generation sequencing, taxonomy, and systematics.