

Bernese Award for Environmental Research

The main award goes to Dr. Miriam Zemanova



Laudatory speech

Miriam Zemanova,

whose PhD thesis “Combining genetics, ecology and modelling to understand the invasion of *Arion* slugs” showed how the spread of the slug, *Arion vulgaris*, can identify it as an invasive species, using genetics, ecology, and modelling. It also shows how the invader has replaced endemic slug species such as *Arion rufus*, due to its faster growth and earlier reproduction, and how the hybridization of this invasive species with endemic slug species can lead to new and hitherto unknown interactions with the ecosystem.

CV

- Born 1984 in Prague, Czech Republic
- 2005 – 2008 Studies in Applied Ecology, Czech University of Life Sciences Prague, Czech Republic
- 2009 – 2010 Master’s in Ecological Conservation, Cranfield University, UK
- 2008 – 2012 Master’s in Forestry, Water and Landscape Management, Czech University of Life Sciences Prague
- 2012 – 2016 PhD Thesis, Institute of Ecology and Evolution, University of Bern, Switzerland
- Since 2016, independent researcher and scientific adviser