

#BelBi2023 • Belgrade, Serbia

# BOOK OF ABSTRACTS



## 4th Belgrade Bioinformatics Conference

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EDITORS

**Dr. Ivana Morić**

**Dr. Valentina Đorđević**

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# FOREWORD

Dear colleagues and friends,

The 4th Belgrade Bioinformatics Conference - BelBi2023, where many high-quality scientific contributions were presented, has just ended. With great thanks to all participants, we now proudly present a book of abstracts that both reflects the scientific abundance and diversity of the conference and serves as a reminder of a memorable event.

Several research institutions, faculties, and scientific societies from Serbia joined forces in organizing this international conference, which covered numerous topics in computational biology, bioinformatics, and biomedical and health informatics. The main goal of BelBi2023 was to foster contact between scientists, both early stage career and senior researchers, allowing them to share experiences and latest advances in their fields. We sincerely hope that BelBi2023 has served as a platform for researchers from around the world to meet, initiate new collaborations, and expand professional contacts, and that all of you would become a part of the growing BelBi community.

We are grateful and proud to have welcomed more than 250 researchers from 21 countries. We have had 28 scientific sessions, consisting of more than 60 lectures (including eight Keynote talks), 47 presented posters, as well as three workshops and one satellite event – COST action. We have also organized seven industry lectures, including the NGS Challenge,

two Meet the Expert Sessions, and one Business Coffee Break where ten start-up companies took part. And finally, the future BIO4 campus was presented and first panel on Serbia's resources for storage and analyses of genetic data was organized.

We would like to thank all the members of the International Advisory Board and the International Program Committee for their efforts and help in making this event a success. We are very grateful to the Ministry of Science, Technological Development and Innovation of the Republic of Serbia, SAIGE project, and UNDP-Serbia for their support. Finally, the Local Organizing Committee is very grateful to all the sponsors of the conference - BGI, Illumina & Elta'90MS, PacBio & East Diagnostics, ThermoFisher Scientific & Vivogen, Huawei, Labena, DSP Chromatography, RNIDS, Telekom Srbija, Alfa Genetics, Kefo and Superlab, hoping that they will stay with us for many years to come.

Looking forward to seeing you again at the 5<sup>th</sup> Belgrade Bioinformatics Conference.

Belgrade, July 2023

*Dr. Valentina Đorđević*  
& *Dr. Ivana Morić,*  
On behalf of BelBi2023  
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**Protein structural differences in Cytochrome c oxidase subunit 1 of two *Heterogynis* species as a new approach for species delimitation**

Marija Vidović<sup>1\*</sup>, Vladislava Galović<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Institute of Molecular Genetics and Genetic Engineering, Laboratory for Plant Molecular Biology, University of Belgrade, Vojvode Stepe 444a, Belgrade, Serbia

<sup>2</sup>University of Novi Sad, Institute of Lowland Forestry and Environment (ILFE), Antona Čehova 13, 21000 Novi Sad, Serbia  
**mvidovic@imgge.bg.ac.rs**

Insects are the most diverse group in the animal kingdom, accounting for about two-thirds of all animals. Cytochrome c oxidase subunit 1 (COI) is the most commonly used marker gene for animal species delineation. However, the accuracy of this approach crucially depends on the degree of overlap between the intra- and interspecific variations.

Recently, we have identified a new species, *Heterogynis serbica* sp. n. (Lepidoptera: Zygaenoidea, Heterogynidae) found on the Mt. Kopaonik, Republic of Serbia, Balkan Peninsula. This was done by integrating taxonomic approach using morpho-anatomical characteristics by comparative scanning electron microscopy (SEM), linear wing morphometry and COI-based DNA barcoding [1]. In this study, we have used a set of bioinformatics tools available online, to determine the differences in secondary and tertiary structure of the COI proteins from *H. serbica* sp. n. and *H. zikici*. We also compared the amino acid distribution and COI motif profiles between the two species. Our results provide strong evidence that protein structure of COI can help with COI-based DNA barcoding for taxon-specific purposes of species identification and delimitation studies. Millions of COI DNA sequences deposited in the public domain (which are still growing) carry huge potential for a comprehensive assessment of genetic variation in COI among insects by using here described analysis.

**Keywords:** cytochrome c oxidase subunit 1, Heterogynidae, Heterogynis sp., Lepidoptera, conserved protein motif, protein sequence, secondary and tertiary protein structure, transmembrane helices.

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