Biosketch Bettina Sonntag

Main areas of research

My research group focuses on the ecology, diversity and taxonomy of ciliates mainly from lakes. To understand the autecology of ciliates and their bacterial and algal endosymbionts, we study these protists on an alpha-taxonomic level including morphological and molecular state-of-the-art methods.

Present position

Senior scientist and Head of the research group 'Ciliate ecology and taxonomy'

Research Department for Limnology, Mondsee

University of Innsbruck, Austria

Homepages: www.uibk.ac.at/limno/personnel/sonntag/ and www.ciliates.at

Academic education

2000 Ph.D. in Natural Sciences, University of Innsbruck, Austria

1998 Diploma in Biology with a focus on Ecology and Limnology

Recent and ongoing research projects

'Concert of Trumpets: Next Generation Taxonomy of *Stentor'*, Jan 2024 – Jan 2028, Austrian Science Fund FWF

'NGTax – Next Generation Taxonomy: Ciliophora and their bacterial symbionts as a proof of concept' (PI Giulio Petroni, University of Pisa, Italy), EU-Horizon2020 Marie-Curie Actions – Research and Innovation Staff Exchange (RISE), Jul 2021 - March 2026

'Aquatic Symbiosis Genome Project', Subhub of Patrick Keeling (University of British Columbia, Canada), 'Ciliates as models for symbiosis: using genomic analyses of functionally diverse symbiotic associations with parallel origins to gain insights into basic evolutionary principles of symbiosis' Wellcome Sanger Institute and Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, ongoing since Oct 2020

'Pan-European Lake Sampling – Microbial Eco-genomics' Czech Academy of Sciences, Biology Centre CAS, Budweis Czech Republic, PI Rohit Ghai, Michaela Salcher, Jan 2020 – Dec 2024

'Freshwater endosymbiotic algae and their ciliate hosts: morphology, phylogeny, ecology', Apr 2016 – Mar 2021, Austrian Science Fund FWF

'Co-occurrence networks in aquatic food webs: ciliates as models', Sep 2015 – Aug 2020, Austrian Science Fund FWF

Publications (peer-reviewed)

See www.ciliates.at for a full list

>45 publications in total