Alejandro **Ibáñez Ricoma**

Assistant Professor – University of Lodz

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Currently held positions

Department of Ecology and Vertebrate Zoology, Faculty of Biology and Environmental Protection *University of Lodz*

Assistant Professor

Scientific profile and collaborations

My main interest is to understand how animals communicate with a especial focus on chemical signals and pheromones. One of the main lines of research I am interested in focuses on the evolution of chemical communication in turtles (order Testudines) from a phylogenetic perspective. I also use lizards (order Squamata) as models to understand chemosignal variation across populations and habitats. Currently, I am leading a project using the sand lizard (Lacerta agilis) as a model to understand how symbiotic bacteria may mediate mate choice through chemical signals. Furthermore, I am also interested in other topics that include molecular detection of haemoparasites and, more broadly, the behavior, ecology and evolution of reptiles.

I have pursued my scientific career in several institutions across different countries. I carried out my PhD at the **National Museum of Natural Sciences (MNCN)** in Madrid, Spain. Later, I was funded by a prestigious postdoctoral fellowship from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation to study the role of chemical signals on Galápagos marine iguanas at the **Technical University of Braunschweig** (Germany). After my postdoc, I worked at the **Jagiellonian University in Krakow** to lead a project focusing in the evolution of chemical communication in turtles. Currently, I am employed the **University of Lodz**, where I conduct my research on ecological and evolutionary aspects of reptiles.

Selected publications

2025 ***Chemical signal diversity in male sand lizards (Lacerta agilis) along an urbanization gradient*** **[link]**

2021 ***Evolutionary history of mental glands in turtles reveals a single origin in an aquatic ancestor and recurrent losses independent of macrohabitat*** **[link]**

2020 ***Proteomics of Galápagos marine iguanas links function of femoral gland proteins to the immune system*** **[link]**

Research grants

Principal Investigator: 2 grants: Sonata and Opus from NCN

Fellowships: 1 postdoctoral fellowship: Alexander von Humboldt Foundation

Co-Investigator: 3 projects

International research stays

Germany, Braunschweig, Institute of Zoology, Technical University of Braunschweig, in the team of Prof. Sebastian Steinfartz