Magdalena **Błażewicz**

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Currently held positions

Department of Invertebrate Zoology and Hydrobiology, Faculty of Biology and Environmental Protection — *University of Lodz*

Professor

Faculty of Biology and Environmental Protection — *University of Lodz*

Vice Dean

Melbourne Museum, Victora, Australia — *Museums Victoria*

Research Associate

Scientific profile and collaborations

My scientific research focuses on the **biodiversity, phylogeny, and evolutionary ecology** of **deep-sea peracarid crustaceans**, with particular emphasis on the **order Tanaidacea**. Using an **integrative taxonomic framework**, I combine detailed morphological analyses with genetic data to resolve species boundaries, reconstruct phylogenetic relationships, and develop evolutionarily robust classifications within several morphologically complex tanaidacean families. A substantial part of my work is dedicated to **large-scale biogeographic studies** in the North Pacific, North Atlantic, and the Southern Ocean, as well as in regions targeted for deep-sea mining, including the Clarion–Clipperton Zone. Participation in international expeditions exploring the North Pacific provides access to unique material that supports analyses of molecular diversity, species distribution patterns, and environmental drivers shaping **deep-sea benthic communities**. These efforts **integrate ecological modelling** with biodiversity assessments to better understand **dispersal potential, habitat connectivity**, and the influence of environmental gradients on **faunal assemblages**.

My expertise in deep-sea invertebrate taxonomy has been strengthened through long-term collaborations with research groups in Germany, Belgium, Australia, and the United Kingdom. By combining classical morphological approaches with advanced imaging techniques, including confocal microscopy, I am able to document subtle diagnostic traits essential for resolving longstanding phylogenetic and taxonomic questions. Beyond systematics, I contribute to broader ecological and conservation-oriented syntheses that inform **environmental management of vulnerable deep-sea habitats**. My research supports the development of baseline knowledge crucial for assessing the impacts of emerging **anthropogenic pressures**, particularly those associated with seabed mineral resource exploration. By **integrating taxonomy, evolutionary biology, and deep-sea ecology**, my work advances understanding of the origin, diversification, and distribution of Tanaidacea while providing data essential for evidence-based conservation strategies in the deep ocean.

Selected publications

2024 ***Integrative taxonomy supports the establishment of a new deep-sea family of Tanaidacea (Peracarida)*** **[link]**

2025 ***Depth-structured diversity: high number of undescribed species of Tanaidacea (Crustacea) across depth gradient in subarctic regions of the NE Pacific*** **[link]**

2025 ***As little as we know: current understanding and future outlook of benthic tanaid diversity and distribution in the Clarion–Clipperton Zone (CCZ)*** **[link]**

Research grants

Principal Investigator: 8 grants: KBN, NCN, NCBiR, The European Commission's MSC

Co-Investigator: 4 grants: KBN, NCN, JPI Oceans

International research stays

Australia, Postdoc (2007-2009) at Melbourne Museum, Victora