



MARIA ALEXIOU CHATZAKI

(<https://sites.google.com/site/mbgsystematics>)

Personal information

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| First name/ Surname | Maria Alexiou Chatzaki | |
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Education

2003: PhD at the Natural History Museum of Crete - Biology Department of the University of Crete in corroboration with the Zoological Institute of the University of Innsbruck, Austria. Title: "*Ground spiders of Crete (Araneae, Gnaphosidae): taxonomy, ecology and biogeography*", 452 pp.

1998: Post-graduate studies (**Master in environmental Biology**) at the Natural History Museum of Crete - Biology Department of the University of Crete. Title: "*Systematics and phenology of ground spiders of the island group Gavdos-Gavdopoula, Greece*", 150pp.

1996: Degree at the Biology Department of the University of Crete.

Current occupation

25/07/2017 – present : **Associate Professor** of Biology, Systematics and Ecology at the Department of Molecular Biology and Genetics (MBG) of the Democritus University of Thrace (DUTH)

Research background & Academic profile

My research background is focused on: spider systematics; biogeography; phylogeography of the Aegean area based on several arthropod groups; spider ecology; mountain ecology; toxinology and public health; environmental education. I am competent at using various classical and molecular methodologies to approach my experimental work. I am experienced in field work having participated in multiple expeditions in Greece and other countries of the East Mediterranean.

As a faculty member of MBG, I am the head for the organization and teaching of three main undergraduate courses (*Introduction to Biology – Introduction to Biology of Organisms – Molecular Ecology*) and one postgraduate course (*Extra Academic skills*) and have supervised many undergraduate and postgraduate students. I am responsible for the establishment and organization of two fully equipped laboratories for classical (dry lab) and molecular (wet lab) systematics (“Lab of Ecology and Biodiversity Conservation”).

As a PI or group member of multiple projects funded by national or ECC sources, I have gained broad experience in management, administration and organization responsibilities. I belong to a network of internationally recognized scientists with whom I keep a dynamic interaction.

Teaching (DUTH)

Undergraduate courses (MBG, 2007-today) -Full accomplishment (organization and teaching) of:

Introduction to Biology (Main course and Practicals)

Introduction to Biology of Organisms (Main course and Practicals)

Molecular Ecology

Postgraduate courses

“Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics”. Dpt of Medicine, DUTH. Module: ***“Animal venoms and toxins: learning from nature for the disease treatment”***. [May 2009 – today]

“Translational research in Biomedicine”, MBG, DUTH. Full accomplishment of the course ***Extra Academic skills***. II. Participation (with one module) in the course ***Drug development and targeted therapeutic approaches***. [October 2013 – today]

“Occupational Hygiene and safety”, Dpt of Medicine, DUTH. Module: ***“Animal venoms and toxins: risks or nature gifts?”*** [June 2013– today]

“Sustainable development of production and environment in agriculture”, Dpt of Agricultural development, DUTH, Module: ***“Spiders and the 3 “B”: Biodiversity – Bioindicators – Biological control”*** [January 2015]

Theses supervision/evaluation

- Supervision of 15 undergraduate and 3 postgraduate theses
- Member of the evaluation board for 2 postgraduate theses and 2 doctorate theses
- Supervision of 4 Post Doctorate research fellows

Selected Publications of the last decade

- ✱ ***Chatzaki M., Lymberakis, P., Mitov, P. and Mylonas, M. 2009. Phenology of Opiliones on an altitudinal gradient at Lefka Ori mountains, Crete, Greece. *Journal of Arachnology* , Vol. 37(2): 139-146.**
- ✱ ***Panayiotou, E., Kaltsas, D., Seyyar, O. and Chatzaki, M. 2010. Revision of the genus *Berinda* (Araneae, Gnaphosidae) in the East Mediterranean with the description of two new species. *Zootaxa*, Vol. 2362: 42-54.**
- ✱ ***Chatzaki, M. 2010. A revision of the genus *Nomisia* in Greece and neighboring regions with the description of two new species. *Zootaxa* Vol. 2501: 1-22.**
- ✱ ***Chatzaki, M. 2010. New evidence on the least known zelotines (Araneae, Gnaphosidae) of Greece and adjacent regions. *Zootaxa* Vol. 2564: 43-61**

- ✱ Schröder, M., [Chatzaki, M.](#) & Buchholz, S. 2011. **Faunistics and biogeography of spiders (Arachnida: Araneae) of the Aladjiola wetland complex in Northeast Greece, with further notes on the biogeography of Greece.** *Biological Journal of Linnean Society* Vol. 102: 217-233.
- ✱ Kaltsas, D., Panayiotou, E., Trichas, A., [Chatzaki, M.](#) and M. Mylonas. 2012. **Co-occurrence patterns and shaping processes of assembly in beetle and spider communities in eastern Mediterranean maquis formations.** *Journal of Biological Research- Thessaloniki*, Vol. 18:187-197.
- ✱ [Chatzaki, M.](#); Horta, C.C.; Almeida, M.O.; Pereira, N.B.; Mendes, T.M.; Dias-Lopes, C.; Guimarães, G.; Moro, L.; Chávez-Olórtegui, C.; Horta, M.C.R.; Kalapothakis, E. 2012. **Cutaneous loxoscelism caused by *Loxosceles similis* venom and neutralization capacity of its specific antivenom.** *Toxicon*, Vol. 60: 21-30.
- ✱ Pereira, N.B., Kalapothakis, E., Vasconcelos, A.C., [Chatzaki, M.](#), Campos, L.P., Vieira, F.O., Verçosa, B.L.A., Silva, S.S., Ferreira, W.M., Moro, L. 2012. **Histopathological characterization of experimentally induced cutaneous loxoscelism in rabbits inoculated with *Loxosceles similis* venom.** *The Journal of Venomous Animals and Toxins including Tropical Diseases*, Vol.18 (3): 277-286.
- ✱ Kaltsas, D., Trichas, A., Kougioumoutzis, K. & [Chatzaki, M.](#) 2013. **Ground beetles respond to grazing at assemblage level, rather than species-specifically: the case of Cretan shrublands** *Insect Conservation and Diversity*, DOI 10.1007/s10841-013-9553-0.
- ✱ Kaltsas, D., Panayiotou, E., [Chatzaki, M.](#) and Mylonas, M. 2014. **Ground spider assemblages (Araneae: Gnaphosidae) along an urban-rural gradient in the city of Heraklion, Greece.** *European Journal of Entomology*, Vol. 111(1): 59-67.
- ✱ Zakkak, S., [Chatzaki, M.](#), Nikos Karamalis, N., Kati, V. 2014. **Spiders in the context of agricultural land abandonment in Greek Mountains: species responses, community structure and the need to preserve traditional agricultural landscapes.** *Journal of Insect Conservation*, Vol.18: 599-611.
- ✱ Carmo, A.O., Chatzaki, M., Horta, C.C.R., Magalhães, B.F., Oliveira-Mendes, B.B.R., Chávez-Olórtegui, C., Kalapothakis, E. 2015. **Evolution of alternative methodologies of scorpion antivenoms production,** *Toxicon*, Vol. 97: 64-74
- ✱ Lissner, J and [Chatzaki, M.](#) 2015. **A new species of *Berinda* (Araneae, Gnaphosidae) from the eastern Aegean Islands, Greece.** *Arachnologische Mitteilungen*, Vol.51: 9-11
- ✱ Komnenov, M., Pitta, E., Zografou, K. and [Chatzaki, M.](#) 2016. **Discovering the still unexplored arachnofauna of the National Park of Dadia-Lefkimi-Soufli , NE Greece: a taxonomic review with description of new species.** *Zootaxa*, Vol., 4096:1-66
- ✱ Kornilios, P.; Thanou, E.; Kapli, P.; Parmakelis, A. and [Chatzaki, M.](#) 2016. **Peeking through the trapdoor: historical biogeography of the Aegean endemic spider *Cyrtocarenum Ausserer*, 1871 with an estimation of mtDNA substitution rates for Mygalomorphae.** *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution* Vol. 98: 300-313 (equal contribution with first author)
- ✱ [Horta CC](#), [Chatzaki M](#), [Rezende BA](#), [de Freitas Magalhães B](#), [Duarte CG](#), [Felicori LF](#), [Oliveira-Mendes BB](#), [do Carmo AO](#), [Chávez-Olórtegui C](#) and [Kalapothakis E](#). 2016. **Cardiovascular-active venom toxins since the discovery of captopril: an overview.** *Current Medicinal Chemistry*, Vol. 23: 603-622
- ✱ Pitta, E., Kassara, C., Trichas, A., Sfenthourakis, S. and [Chatzaki, M.](#) 2017. **Community variation of spiders, beetles and isopods in three small island groups of the Aegean Sea: the interplay between history and ecology.** *Journal of Biogeography* [Article DOI: 10.1111/jbi.12979 προδημοσίευση, Μάρτιος 2017]
- ✱ Thanou E., Kornilios P., Poursanidis D., Parmakelis A., Arnedo M. & [Chatzaki M.](#) 2017. **Exploring the role of within-island ecogeographical factors: insights from the genetic diversity of Cretan**

trap-door spiders (*Cyrtocarenum cunicularium*, Ctenizidae, Araneae). *Invertebrate Systematics*, Vol. 31: 506–517

- * Zografou K., Adamidis G.C., Komnenov M., Kati V., Sotirakopoulos P., Pitta E. and Chatzaki M. 2017. **Intra-seasonal activity of spiders and Orthoptera along a canopy cover gradient.** *J Insect Conserv.* doi:10.1007/s10841-017-9993-z
- * Chatzaki, M. and Russell-Smith A. 2017. **New species and new records of ground spiders (Araneae: Gnaphosidae) from Cyprus.** *Zootaxa*, Vol., 4329: 237-255.
- * Chatzaki, M. 2018 **On the ground spiders genera *Marjanus* gen. n., *Lasophorus* gen. n. and *Turkozelotes Kovblyuk & Seyyar, 2009* (Araneae: Gnaphosidae) from Greece.** *Zootaxa* (in press January 2018)

(After Google Scholar, June 2018): **Total citation index = 620,**
H index=13, i-10 index: 20

Book Chapters & other scientific contributions

- Chatzaki M, Blick T & Finch O-D. 2011. European Arachnology 2009. **Proceedings of the 25th European Congress of Arachnology, Alexandroupoli, 16–21 August 2009 – Arachnologische Mitteilungen**, vol 40 (special edition, <http://www.european-arachnology.org/collo/collo25.shtml>).
- Chatzaki, M. 2010. **The Red Data Book of endangered species in Greece: Spiders.** (<http://www.ypeka.gr/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=MhjfH8vqipg%3d&tabid=518&language=el-GR>).
- Chatzaki, M. et al. 2014. **Βιολογία** (Translation of **“Biology”**. Starr C., Evers C. & Starr L.) - 1st edition in Greek 2014. Eds Utopia 2014 (κωδικός ΕΥΔΟΞΟΥ 32998265 - ISBN: 978-618-80647-1-3)
- Horta, C. C. R., Chatzaki, M., Oliveira-Mendes, B. B. R., Do Carmo, A. O., Siquiera, F. F., Kalapothakis, E. 2015. **The Venom from *Lasiodora* sp.: A Mygalomorph Brazilian Spider** *In: Spider Venoms.1 Ed.:* Springer Netherlands (<http://link.springer.com/referencework/10.1007%2F978-94-007-6646-4>), p. 1-17. DOI 10.1007/978-94-007-6646-4_16-1
- Chatzaki M., Pitta E., Poursanidis D., Komnenov, M., Gloor D., Nikolakakis M., Nentwig W. 2015 **SPIDOnet.gr - Spiders of Greece, Version 1.0**, online at www.araneae.unibe.ch/spidonet

Committee Assignments

- Secretary member of the European Society of Arachnology (since 2008)
- Member of the council of the Hellenic Zoological Society (since 2014)
- Member of the editorial board of the World Spider Catalogue (since 2016).

Recent Funding

- **2012-2014** Greek Ministry of Health «Development of Human Resources» 2007-2013, protection of Public Health of the population, Pr. Axis 13. Title: «*Harmful effects from the use of plant protective products: specialized biomarkers in the service of Public Health and information campaign*». Budget: 370.000 €. Faculty of Medicine, DUTH, PI: Dr. E. Chatzaki (Team member - Investigator).
- **2014-2015** European Union (European Social Fund) and National Resources under the Operational Programme “Education and Lifelong Learning”, ARISTEIA II Programme, NSRF 2007-2013 Title «*Spinning or speeding the web? Accelerating biodiversity research using ground spiders as ambassadors of Greek arthropod hotspots* ». Budget: 200.000 €. **PI: Dr. M. Chatzaki.**
- **2014-2015** Operational Programme «*Environment and Sustainable development*», Pr. Axis 9 «*Natural environment and Biodiversity Protection*», NSRF 2007-2013. Title: «*Databasing and monitoring of*

habitat types and of flora and fauna species included in the 92/43 and 79/409 Directives», Section 5: «Monitoring of invertebrates» Budget: 260.000 €. Management office of Evros Delta, **PI: Dr. M. Chatzaki.**

- **2014-2015** Operational Programme «*Environment and Sustainable development*», Priority Axis 9 «*Natural environment and Biodiversity Protection*», NSRF 2007-2013. Title: «Databasing and monitoring of fauna species included in the 92/43 Directive and other protected species and habitats». Budget: 109.943,52 €, Univ. of Crete, PI: Dr. M. Probonas (Team member - Investigator)
- **2014-2015** Operational Programme «*Environment and Sustainable development*», Priority Axis 9 «*Natural environment and Biodiversity Protection*», NSRF 2007-2013. Title: «Monitoring of amphibians, reptiles, invertebrates and chiropterans at the protected area of Karpathos- Saria». Budget: 26.548,95 €. University of Crete, PI: Dr. P. Lymberakis. (Team member - Investigator)