

Ramona-Elena Irimia

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I am a plant ecologist with an interest in ecological and evolutionary mechanisms that enable species to adapt to environmental change. I use invasive plants as study systems and a combination of fieldwork, common garden experiments and genomic approaches to investigate species resilience to climate change, invasive potential and adaptive capacity across native and introduced ranges. Recently, I have also begun exploring herbarium collections and archival DNA to study eco-evolutionary changes in natural populations over time.

APPOINTMENTS

Postdoctoral Researcher (Evolution & Ecology) University of Tübingen (UT), Germany, Supervisor: Oliver Bossdorf	2024 – current
Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellow (Evolution & Ecology) UT, Germany, Supervisor: Oliver Bossdorf	2022 – 2023
Postdoctoral Researcher (Evolution & Ecology) UT, Germany, Supervisor: Oliver Bossdorf	2020 – 2021
Research Assistant (Ecology), National Institute of Research & Development for Biological Sciences, Piatra-Neamt, Romania Supervisor: Mihael Cristin Ichim	2012 – 2016

EDUCATION

PhD Ecology, University of Coimbra (UC), Portugal Title: <i>Invasive species – ecological and genomic approaches towards understanding local adaptation and early stages of allopatric speciation</i> . Supervisors: Daniel Montesinos (UC), Adrian Brennan (Durham, UK) & João Loureiro (UC)	2016 – 2020
MSc Environmental Science and Biology, “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University, (UAIC), Iași, Romania Title: <i>Taxonomic revision of Rochefortia Sw. (Boraginales) based on morphological and molecular data</i> . Supervisors: Lucian Gorgan (UAIC) & Marc Gottschling (Ludwig-Maximilians Universität München, Germany)	2009 – 2014
BSc Ecology, UAIC Iași, Romania	2006 – 2009

RESEARCH FUNDING

<i>Research Seed Capital (RiSC)</i> , German State Government (50.000 €) Title: <i>Spatio-temporal dynamics of invasion in a global invader plant</i> • Awards made for innovative and highly risky projects.	2023 – 2024
<i>Intramural excellence funding for junior researchers</i> , UT (35.000 €)	2022 – 2024

Marie-Curie Postdoctoral Fellowship, EU Commission (162.806 €) 2022 – 2023
 Title: *CloneInvasion – Eco-evolutionary dynamics of biological invasions reconstructed from ancient DNA*

- One of the most competitive postdoctoral fellowships in Europe.

Doctoral fellowship, Portuguese foundation for Science (71.308 €) 2016 – 2020
 Title: *Invasive species as a model system for the study of the early stages of allopatric speciation*

- Financed in open national competition.

TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIPS

Biodiversity (Bio-BEE-001, UT)	2024
Plant Evolutionary Ecology (Bio-3154, UT)	2022, 2024
Herbarium tours (UT)	2023, 2024
Global Change Ecology (Bio-3173, UT)	2022

MENTORSHIP (supervised thesis projects)

Felix Hahn (MSc student, UT)	2024 – current
Ma Chujie (MSc student, Wenzhou-Kean University, China, co-supervisor)	2024 – current
Jamie Wiener (BSc student, UT)	2023 – 2024
Theresa Rothfuchs (BSc student, UT)	2023 – 2024
Luzia Hama (BSc student, UT)	2022 – 2023
Farah Badreldin (MSc student, UT)	2021 – 2022

SERVICE

Organizer, symposium on <i>Eco-evolutionary dynamics and feedbacks in invasive species</i> , Congress of the European Society for Evolutionary Biology, Prague	2022
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REVIEWING WORK

Journals: *American Journal of Botany* (2); *Annals of Botany* (1); *Acta Physiologiae Plantarum* (1); *Biological Invasions* (1); *BMC Evolutionary Biology* (1); *BMC Ecology and Evolution* (1); *Discover Plants* (1); *Evolutionary Ecology* (1); *Global Change Biology* (1); *Journal of Plant Nutrition and Soil Science* (1); *Journal of Evolutionary Biology* (1); *Journal of Ecology* (1); *Molecular Ecology* (1); *NeoBiota* (1); *Nordic Journal of Botany* (1); *Oikos* (1)

Research grants

French National Research Agency (ANR - France)	2023
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PUBLICATIONS

[10]. Irimia RE, Zhao W, Cao P, Parepa M, Liao Z-Y, Wang S, Mounger JM, Richardson C, Elkott F, Zhuang X, et al. (2025). Cross-continental shifts of ecological strategy in a global plant invader. *Global Ecology and Biogeography*. e70001. 10.1111/geb.70001.

- Data analysis and manuscript writing. Open access (OA)

[9]. Irimia RE, Montesinos D, Chaturvedi A, Sanders I, Hierro JL, Sotes G, Cavieres LA, Eren Ö, Lortie CJ, French K, Brennan AC (2023). Trait evolution during a rapid global weed invasion despite little genetic differentiation. *Evolutionary Applications* 16:997-1011. 10.1111/eva.13548.

- Conceptualization, performed the lab work, data analysis, manuscript writing. OA

[8]. Branco S, **Irimia RE**, Montesinos D (2023). The introduction of an invasive weed was not followed by the introduction of ethnobotanical knowledge: a review on the ethnobotany of *Centaurea solstitialis* L. (Asteraceae). *PeerJ* 11. e15489. 10.7717/peerj.15489. OA

- Manuscript writing.

[7]. **Irimia RE**, Hierro JL, Branco S, Sotes G, Cavieres LA, Eren Ö, Lortie CJ, French K, Callaway RM, Montesinos D. (2021). Experimental admixture among geographically disjunct populations of an invasive plant yields a global mosaic of reproductive incompatibility and heterosis. *Journal of Ecology* 109:2152-2162. 10.1111/1365-2745.13628. OA

- Conceptualization, performed the lab work, data analysis, manuscript writing.

[6]. **Irimia RE**, Lopes SMM, Sotes G, Cavieres LA, Eren Ö, Lortie CJ, French K, Hierro JL, Rosche C, Callaway R, Pinho e Melo TMVD, Montesinos D (2019). Biogeographic differences in the allelopathy of leaf surface extracts of an invasive weed. *Biological Invasions* 21:3151-3168. 10.1007/s10530-019-02038-1.

- Conceptualization, performed the lab work, data analysis, manuscript writing.

[5]. Žerdoner Čalasan A, Kretschmann J, Filipowicz, NH, **Irimia RE**, Kirsch M, Gottschling M (2019). Towards global distribution maps of unicellular organisms such as calcareous dinophytes based on DNA sequence information. *Marine Biodiversity* 49:749-758. 10.1007/s12526-018-0848-y.

- Performed field sampling and manuscript writing.

[4]. **Irimia RE**, Montesinos D, Eren O, Lortie CJ, French K, Cavieres LA, Sotes GJ, Hierro JL, Jorge A, Loureiro J (2017). Extensive analysis of native and non-native *Centaurea solstitialis* L. populations across the world shows no traces of polyploidization. *PeerJ* 5:e3531. 10.7717/peerj.3531. OA

- Conceptualization, performed the lab work, data analysis, manuscript writing.

[3]. **Irimia RE**, Gottschling M (2016). Taxonomic revision of *Rochefortia* Sw. (Ehretiaceae, Boraginales). *Biodiversity Data Journal* 4: e7720. 10.3897/BDJ.4.e7720. OA

- Conceptualization, performed the lab work, data analysis, manuscript writing.

[2]. **Irimia RE**, Gottschling M (2015). A new species of *Rochefortia* (Ehretiaceae, Boraginales) from the Lesser Antilles. *Phytotaxa* 236:62-70. 10.11646/phytotaxa.236.1.5.

- Conceptualization, performed the lab work, data analysis, manuscript writing.
- New species description: *Rochefortia barloventensis* Irimia & Gottschling.

[1]. **Irimia RE**, Pérez-Escobar OA, Gottschling M (2015). Strong biogeographic signal in the phylogenetic relationships of *Rochefortia* Sw. (Ehretiaceae, Boraginales). *Plant Systematics and Evolution* 301:1509-1516. 10.1007/s00606-014-1162-1.

- Conceptualization, performed the lab work, data analysis, manuscript writing.