12.03.25

CURRICULUM VITAE – TOBIAS VAN ELST

PERSONAL DETAILS

Name	Tobias van Elst
Nationality	German
Current affiliation	Animal Genomics, ETH Zürich Universitätstrasse 2, 8006 Zürich
Email	tobias.vanelst@usys.ethz.ch
Media	

PROFESSIONAL CAREER

03/2025 – present	**Postdoctoral researcher** at ETH Zürich
07/2020 – 10/2024	**Research associate** at the University of Veterinary Medicine Hannover, Foundation
02/2020 – 03/2020	**Research associate** at the German Institute of Food Technology
11/2018 – 12/2019	**Student assistant** at the Institute for Evolution and Biodiversity, University of Muenster
04/2017 – 12/2017	**Student assistant** at the Institute for Evolution and Biodiversity, University of Muenster

EDUCATION

07/2020 – 12/2024	**PhD in Veterinary Research and Animal Biology** at the University of Veterinary Medicine Hannover
10/2017 – 01/2020	**Master of Science in Biosciences (Special Study Program Evolution and Biocomplexity)** at the University of Muenster, Germany
10/2014 – 09/2017	**Bachelor of Science in Biosciences** at the University of Muenster, Germany

PUBLICATIONS

van Elst, T.[#], Sgarlata, G.M.[#], Schüßler, D.[#], Tiley, G.P., Poelstra, J.W., Scheumann, M., Blanco, M.B., Aleixo-Pais, I.G., Rina Evasoa, M., Ganzhorn, J.U., Goodman, S.M., Hasiniaina, A.F., Hending, D., Hohenlohe, P.A., Ibouroi, M.T., Iribar, A., Jan, F., Kappeler, P.M., Le Pors, B., Manzi, S., Olivieri, G., Rakotonanahary, A.N., Rakotondranary, S.J., Rakotondravony, R., Ranaivoarisoa, J.F., Randrianambinina, B., Rasoloarison, R.M., Rasoloharijaona, S., Rasolondraibe, E., Teixeira, H., Zaonarivelo, J.R., Louis, Jr. E.E., Yoder, A.D., Chikhi, L., Radespiel, U., Salmona, J. (2024) "Integrative taxonomy clarifies the evolution of a cryptic primate clade" *Nature Ecology & Evolution* ([#] shared first authors)

Schüßler, D., Blanco, M.B., Guthrie, N.K., Sgarlata, G.M., Dammhahn, M., Ernest, R., Evasoa, M.R., Hasiniaina, A., Hending, D., Jan, F., Le Pors, B., Miller, A., Olivieri, G., Rakotonanahary, A.N., Rakotondranary, S.J., Rakotondravony, R., Ralantoharijaona, T., Ramananjato, V., Randrianambinina, B., Raoelinjanakolona, N.N., Rasoazanabary, E., Rasoloarison, R., Rasolofson, D.W., Rasoloharijaona, S., Rasolondraibe, E., Roberts, S.H., Teixeira, H., **van Elst, T.**, Johnson, S.E., Ganzhorn, J.U., Chikhi, L., Kappeler, P., Louis, Jr., E.E., Salmona, J. & U. Radespiel (2023) "A methodological toolkit to improve data quality of multi-researcher datasets

for the analysis of morphological variation" *American Journal of Biological Anthropology*: 1-19

van Elst, T., Schüßler, D., Rakotondravony, R., Rovanirina, V.S.T., Veillet, A., Hohenlohe, P.A., Ratsimbazafy, J.H., Rasoloarison, R.M., Rasoloharijaona, S., Randrianambinina, B., Ramilison, M.L., Yoder, A.D., Louis Jr., E.E. & U. Radespiel (2023) "Diversification processes in Gerp's mouse lemur demonstrate the importance of rivers and altitude as biogeographic barriers in Madagascar's humid rainforests." *Ecology and Evolution* 13: e10254

Tiley, G.[#], **van Elst, T.**[#], Teixeira, H., Schüßler, D., Salmona, J., Blanco, M.B., Ralison, J., Randrianambinina, B., Rasoloarison, R., Stahlke, A., Hohenlohe, P., Chikhi, L., Louis Jr., E.E., Radespiel, U. & A. Yoder (2022) "Population genomic structure in Goodman's mouse lemur reveals long-standing separation of Madagascar's Central Highlands and eastern rainforests." *Molecular Ecology* 31: 4901-4918 ([#] shared first authors)

van Elst, T., Eriksson, T., Gadau, J., Johnson, B., Taylor, J., Rabeling, C. & M. Borowiec (2021) "Comprehensive phylogeny of *Myrmecocystus* honey ants highlights cryptic diversity and infers evolution during aridification of the American Southwest." *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution* 155: 107036

van Elst, T. & J. Gadau (2018) "Temporal variation in social structure and worker reproduction in the temporary social parasite *Lasius fuliginosus* (Hymenoptera: Formicidae)." *Myrmecological News* 27: 75-85

SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

2024 PhD thesis finishing grant; provided by the Hannover Graduate School for Neurosciences, Infection Medicine and Veterinary Sciences HGNI (**1,500 €**)

2022 DFG grant extension (together with Ute Radespiel); provided by the German Research foundation (DFG) (~ **50,000 €**)

2022 Compute grant extension; provided by the National High Performance Computing Alliance NHR (computation time equivalent to ~ **66,000 €**)

2022 Travel grant; provided by the University of Veterinary Medicine Hannover (**1,000 €**)

2021 Compute grant (together with Ute Radespiel); provided by the North-German Supercomputing Alliance HLRN (computation time equivalent to ~ **53,300 €**)

2018 Travel grant; provided by the IUSSI Northwest-European section (**450 €**)

2018 Student scholarship; provided by the ERASMUS+ programme of the European Commission (**1,040 €**)

2016 RISE worldwide scholarship; provided by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) (**4,100 €**)

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

2024 Comparative phylogeography of *Microcebus* species in a centre of biodiversity in northeastern Madagascar (3rd Joint Congress on Evolutionary Biology, Montreal, Canada, talk)

2023 Patterns and processes of diversification in a primate genus: the case of cryptic mouse lemurs (6th European Conference of Tropical Ecology, České Budějovice, Czech Republic, talk)

2023 Phylogeography of Gerp's mouse lemur highlights the importance of rivers and altitude as dispersal barriers in Madagascar's humid rainforests (2nd Münster Evolution Meeting, Münster, Germany, talk)

2022 Phylogeography of Gerp‘s mouse lemur (*Microcebus gerpi*) has been shaped by rivers, altitude and paleoclimate (Joint Conference of the European Federation of Primatology

& the Gesellschaft für Primatologie, Arnhem, Netherlands, and 5th European Conference of Tropical Ecology, Montpellier, France, talk)

2022 The use of genomics to reconstruct the evolutionary history of (mouse) lemurs (University of Antananarivo, Antananarivo, Madagascar, invited talk)

2019 Ultraconserved elements help to resolve evolutionary relationships across several time scales in the honey ant genus *Myrmecocystus*. (112th Annual Meeting of the German Zoological Society and 6th Central European IUSSI Meeting, Vienna, Austria, talk)

2018 Facultative polyandry, polygyny and worker reproduction in *Lasius fuliginosus.* (18th IUSSI Congress, Guarujá, Brazil, poster)

LANGUAGE SKILLS

German (first language)
English (CEFR C2)
French (CEFR B1/B2)
Portuguese (approx. CEFR A2)