

# Curriculum Vitae of Rimvys Vasaitis (September 2024)

## 1. General info

**Name:** Rimvys (Rimvydas) Vasaitis (until 2008, Vasiliauskas)

**Date of birth:** 1963-07-25

**Website:** <https://www.slu.se/en/ew-cv/rimvydas-vasaitis/>

**Orcid:** 0000-0001-9349-4625

**Google scholar link:** <https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=HAL6PmMAAAAJ&hl=en>

**h - index:** 47

### Basic academic education:

Diploma in Forestry, Lithuanian University of Agriculture (1986)

### Degrees:

PhD in Forest Protection (1989) St.Petersburg Forest Technology University. Dissertation: "Wound decay in stands of *Picea abies* associated with logging damage and bark stripping"

PhD in Forest Pathology (1998) Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU), Uppsala. Dissertation: "Ecology of fungi colonizing wounds of *Picea abies* with special emphasis on *Stereum sanguinolentum*"

Doctor Habilitus in Biology (September 1999). Vilnius University. Dissertation: "Population biology and silvicultural significance of fungi colonizing wounds of spruce, oak and ash"

*(the dissertations consist of separate studies)*

**Docent (Associate Professor):** year 1994 (Lithuanian University of Agriculture) and 2009 (Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences)

**Current employment:** outreach researcher & forest pathologist, Dept. of Forest Mycology & Plant Pathology, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU)

### Previous appointments:

1986-1989: PhD student, St. Petersburg Forest Technology Academy, Russia

1989-1992: researcher, Lithuanian Forest Research Institute

1992-2001: assistant professor, then docent, Lithuanian University of Agriculture

1999-2001: post-doc, Dept. of Forest Mycology & Pathology, (SLU).

2001-2009: researcher

Since 2010: current appointment

**Expertise:** forest & tree health and protection, mycology, entomology, ecology, silviculture

## 2. Research profile

Falls within forest health, and is mainly focused on fungal diseases of trees in all stages of life, – from seedling, up to old-growth tree. It deals with forest and urban trees from over 10 species, and includes wide range of diverse fungal pathogens, but also insect pests.

**Main subjects:** i) forest/tree pathology and protection; ii) mycology; iii) entomology; iv) silviculture.

**Ecosystems:** European temperate and boreal forests.

**Competence areas** (in alphabetical order): - biodiversity and nature conservation; - dieback, wilt and canker; - disease identification and diagnosis; - disease management, silvicultural and biological control; - drought, fire and wind (abiotic) damage; - economic impact; - endophytes and mycorrhiza; - forest decline and self-regeneration; - forest disease (damage) survey and modelling; - forestry and silviculture; - fungal community ecology and population genetics; - fungus-insect associations; - **invasive and emerging diseases and insect pests**; - logging and wildlife damage; - post-fire fungi; - root rot in forest stands; - shoot and foliar diseases; - stem decay.

### 3. Acquired competitive Project Grants

(main applicant and project leader)

#### A. Research council funds

- A1. *Foundation:* Swedish Research Council for Environment, Agricultural Sciences and Spatial Planning (FORMAS). *Project title:* “Genetic diversity in wood-decay fungi: large-scale biocontrol organism in managed stands versus endangered species in fragmented habitats” (Dnrs 23.1/2001-2657 & 23.1/2003-0523). *Duration:* years 2002-2005. *Budget:* 330 000 €
- A2. FORMAS, “Community dynamics of blue-stain fungi colonising spruce in areas affected by the storm of January 2005” (Dnrs 239 – 2005-506 & 230 – 2005-1643), 2005-2011, 206 000 €
- A3. Nordic Forest Research Co-operation Committee (SNS), “Decline of *Fraxinus excelsior* in northern Europe” (SNS-109), 2010-2012, 150 000 €
- A4. FORMAS, “Restoration of European noble hardwood ecosystems devastated by alien invasive fungi: focus on ash and elm” (Dnr 239-2014-68: planning grant for Horizon 2020), 2015, 11 000 €
- A5. SNS, “Emerald Ash Borer (*Agrilus planipennis*), invasive deadly pest approaching east EU border: preparing for the worst-case scenario (EMERALD)”, 2018, 18 000 €.
- A6. SNS “Alien forest pathogens and pests in the changing environment: focus on North Europe”, 2023, 20 000 €.

#### B. European Union funds

- B1. European Commission (EC), Marie Curie Actions, “Management of coastal forests of Lithuania: sustaining and enhancing forest health through silviculture (LITCOAST)” (MTKI-CT-2006 – 042622), 2006-2010, 375 000 €
- B2. EC, COST Office, “*Fraxinus* dieback in Europe: elaborating guidelines for sustainable management (FRAXBACK)” (COST Action FP1103), 2012-2016, 800 000 €
- B3. EC, LIFE+ Nature, “Saving wooded Natura 2000 habitats from invasive alien fungi on the Island of Gotland, Sweden” (ELMIAS) (NAT/SE/001139), 2013-2018, 473 629 € (project coordinated by Swedish Forest Agency with separate budget)
- B4. EU, European Structural and Investment Funds, Operational Programme Research, Development and Education, “Canker and wood decay: diseases of conifers” (CZ.02.2.69/0.0/16\_027/0007953), 2019-2020, 34 000 €.

### C. Private Foundations

- C1. Stiftelsen Oscar & Lilli Lamms Minne (LAMSKA), "The decline of *Fraxinus excelsior* in Sweden: causal organisms, their biology and ecology", 2007-2008, 5000 €
- C2. Carl Tryggers Stiftelse för Vetenskaplig Forskning (CTS), "title as above" (CTS 06:478), 2007-2010, 25 000 €
- C3. CTS, "Genetic relationships and phylogeny in *Laetiporus sulphureus*" (CTS 08:401), 2009-2012, 10 000 €
- C4. LAMSKA, "Biology and control of Dutch elm disease in Gotland", 2011-2014, 240 000 €
- C5. CTS, "title as above" (CTS12:522), 2013-2015, 43 000 €

### D. State Agencies

- D1. Swedish Energy Agency (STEM), "Stump removal in clear-felled forest areas – impact on root rot and fungal diversity" (Dnrs 2006-03537 & 2006-05276), 2006-2009, 310 000 €
- D2. Swedish Univ. Agr. Sci. (SLU), "Stump harvesting and environmental consequences", (Dnr SLU ua 51-440/08), 2009-2011, 60 000 €
- D3. Swedish Institute (Si), "Forest regeneration and sustainability at the forest/steppe border, aimed to control desertification in Ukraine", 2009-2011, 83 000 €
- D4. Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), "Swedish – Russian collaboration in forest protection", 2009-2012, 36 000 €
- D5. Swedish Foundation for International Cooperation in Research and Higher Education (STINT), "Facing challenges to forest health imposed by climate change and globalization", 2010-2014, 123 000 €

## 4. Accomplished evaluations

**Referee** for following 53 Web of Science Impact Factor journals:

*Forest Pathology; FEMS Microbiology Letters; South African Journal of Science; Baltic Forestry; Scandinavian Journal of Forest Research; Silva Fennica; Forest Ecology & Management; New Phytologist; Mycologia; Plant Disease; Journal of Phytopathology; Mycotaxon; Antonie van Leeuwenhoek; Canadian Journal of Forest Research; Fungal Ecology; Journal of Environmental Management; Folia Microbiologica; Revista Chilena de Historia Natural; Ecological Research; Australasian Plant Pathology; Biological Control; Microbial Ecology; European Journal of Forest Research; African Journal of Biotechnology; Annals of Applied Biology; Mycorrhiza; Applied Soil Ecology; Plant Protection Science; European Journal of Plant Pathology; New Zealand Journal of Forestry Science; Forestry (Oxford); Annals of Forest Science; Animal Biodiversity & Conservation; PLOS One; Arboriculture & Urban Forestry; Ecosystem Health & Sustainability; Fungal Biology; Plant Pathology; Environmental Science & Pollution Research; Biocontrol Science & Technology; Rhizosphere; Plants People Planet; Science of the Total Environment; Trees; iForest - Biogeosciences and Forestry; Applied Geography; Scientific Reports; Forests; Diversity; Frontiers in Microbiology; Agricultural and Forest Entomology; Insects*

### **Grant proposals for**

- **Lithuanian State Foundation for Science and Studies:** 11 projects (budgets 200-340 k€)
- **Czech Science Foundation:** 7 (30-220 k€)

- **Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA), United Kingdom:** 2 (over 700 k€ each)
- **European BiodivERsA Call** (year 2013)
- **National Research Foundation, South Africa:** 2 (15 k€ each)
- **Brattåsstiftelsen – för skogsvetenskaplig forskning, Sweden:** 2 (37 & 100 k€)
- **Research Council of Norway:** 2 (1600 & 3400 k€)

### Doctoral theses

- Jens Levenfors** (2003) “Soil-borne pathogens in intensive legume cropping – *Aphanomyces* spp. and root rots”. Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Uppsala.
- Jiri Kout** (2009) “Research of polypores focused at the population structure of selected species”. University of South Bohemia, Ceske Budejovice
- Thomas Kirisits** (2009) “Studies on ophiostomatoid fungi causing Dutch Elm Disease and blue-stain”. University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences, Vienna
- Kaspars Polmanis** (2018) “Influence of needle cast (*Lophodermium* spp.) on morphological parameters of young Scots pine (*Pinus sylvestris* L.) stands”. Latvian University of Life Sciences, Jelgava
- Feng Long** (2024) “The *Fraxinus excelsior* mycobiome”. University of Copenhagen

### Reports

- Dept. for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA), UK:** “Pest Risk Assessment on ash dieback pathogen *Chalara fraxinea*”
- Latvian State Research Programme:** “Forest and earth entrails resources: research and sustainable utilization – new products and technologies”, 2017 – 2018

### Other

- Evaluation /expertise accomplished on the request of the Committee for Scientific Awards of the Republic of Lithuania
- Work Series “Development of cultivars of ornamental plants” (2016).
  - Work Series “Sustainable use of soil in context of anthropogenic pressure and climate change” (2020).

## 5. Supervising

### PhD students, main supervisor (*Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Uppsala*)

- Vaidotas Lygis.** “Root infecting fungi in conifer plantations in Lithuania: biology and management”. Thesis No. 2005:4
- Audrius Menkis.** “Root associated fungi of conifer seedlings and their role in afforestation of agricultural land”. Thesis No. 2005:106
- Natalija Arhipova.** “Heart rot of spruce and alder in forests of Latvia: impact and possibilities for silvicultural control”. Thesis No. 2012:49
- Remigijus Bakys.** “Dieback of *Fraxinus excelsior* in Baltic Sea region: associated fungi, their pathogenicity and implications for forestry”. Thesis No. 2013:10

**Astra Zaluma.** “Susceptibility of native and introduced conifers to *Heterobasidion* spp. in Latvia, and control measures to limit the spread of the pathogens”. University of Latvia, Riga, December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023

(assistant supervisor for six PhD students)

## 6. International activities

### **Principal Organiser of international workshops / conferences**

#### **International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO)**

- joint IUFRO WP7.03.10 “Methodology of forest insect and disease survey” & WP7.03.06 “Integrated management of forest defoliating insects” meeting, Palanga, Lithuania, September 2012
- joint IUFRO WP7.03.01 “Cone and seed insects” & WP7.03.04 “Diseases and insects in forest nurseries” meeting, Vilnius, Lithuania, September 2012
- joint IUFRO WP 7.02.01 “Root and Stem Rot”, and LIFE+ ELMIAS Ash and Elm Conference (LIFE-IUFRO), Uppsala and Visby, Sweden, 26 August - 1 September 2018

#### **European Cooperation in Science & Technology (COST)**

- **within** FP1103 COST Action “*Fraxinus* dieback in Europe”, during 2012 - 2016 organized 10 major workshops / conferences each attended by 40 to 100 participants from up to 40 countries in: Vilnius (LT), Braunschweig (DE), Dublin (IE), Malmo (SE), London (UK), Prague (CZ), Palanga (LT), Dubrovnik (HR), Bratislava (SK), Riga (LV)

#### **Nordic Cooperation in Forest Research (SNS)**

- two SNS Meetings of Nordic – Baltic forest pathologists: Palanga, Lithuania, September 2009, and Uppsala, Sweden, September 2011
- excursion within SNS network “Emerald Ash Borer (*Agrilus planipennis*), invasive deadly pest approaching eastern EU border: preparing for the worst-case scenario (EMERALD)”, September 2018, Tver, Russia

### **Coordination**

- Coordinator of IUFRO Working Party (WP) 7.03.04 “Diseases and insects in forest nurseries”, 2009-2014
- WG4 Leader in FP1002 COST (European Cooperation in Science & Technology) Action “Pathway evaluation and pest risk management”, 2010-2014
- Chair & Grant Holder of FP1103 COST Action “*Fraxinus* dieback in Europe”, 2012-2016
- Representative of Sweden in the Food & Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Network “Forest Invasive Species Network for Europe and Central Asia (REUFIS)”

### **Invited speaker**

1. 7<sup>th</sup> International Mycological Congress, Oslo, Norway, August 2002 (keynote lecture)

2. Stakeholder seminar, Latvian Forest Research Institute, Riga, Latvia, January 2006
3. 23<sup>rd</sup> International Congress of Entomology, Durban, South Africa, July 2008 (keynote)
4. SNS FoRisk Meeting / International Conference, Umeå, Sweden, August 2008
5. Invited seminar, Korean National Institute of Biological Resources, Incheon, Rep. of Korea, October 2008
6. SNS NordGen Forest Working Group Meeting, Uppsala, Sweden, August 2011
- 7-8. 59<sup>th</sup> Western International Forest Disease Work Conference, USDA Forest Service, Leavenworth, Washington, USA, October 2011 (two keynote lectures)
9. European Congress of Arboriculture, Turin, Italy, May 2014 (keynote)
10. COST FA1103 Action “Endophytes” Workshop, Izmir, Turkey, November 2014 (keynote)
11. 25<sup>th</sup> Congress of Nordic Association of Agricultural Scientists (NJF), Riga, Latvia, June 2015 (keynote)
12. European Forest Institute (EFI) International Scientific Conference “Knowledge Based Forest Sector”, November 4–6, 2015, Riga, Latvia (keynote)
13. 1<sup>st</sup> Congress of the University of Arctic (Global Network of Universities of the North, UArctic), St.Petersburg, Russia, September 2016 (keynote)
14. Technical workshop within Horizon 2020-POnTE project “Emerging diseases of forest”, University of Belgrade (Faculty of Forestry and Faculty of Agriculture), 28th of September 2016
15. Invited Seminar on Invasive Tree Diseases: University of Latvia, April 2017
- 16-17. HealGenCar – SNS Nordic Forest Research (Advanced Research in Forest Health and Forest Genetics ) Workshop: “Fighting Ash Dieback With New and Old Tools”, 23-25 August 2017, Skovskolen, Denmark (two lectures)
- 18-19. EUPHRESCO (European Network for Phytosanitary Research Coordination and Funding) Workshop: “Chalara, Lessons Learned”, 27-28 February 2018, Dublin, Ireland (two lectures)
20. OECD – PREPSYS (Co-operative Research Programme: Biological Resource Management for Sustainable Agricultural Management) Conference: “Preparing Europe for Invasion by the Beetles Emerald Ash Borer and Bronze Birch Borer, Two Major Tree-Killing Pests”, 1-4 October 2018, Vienna, Austria (keynote)
- 21-22. Food & Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) 2<sup>nd</sup> Network Meeting of the “Forest Invasive Species Network for Europe and Central Asia (REUFIS)”, 16-18 October 2018, Minsk, Belarus (seminar and keynote)
23. EU Structural and Investing Funds, Operational Programme RDE, “Scientific Centre for Studies on Phytophthora Pathogens”, invited seminar at Mendel University, Brno, Czech Republic, 25 of January 2019
24. Invited webinar by European Forest Genetic Resources Programme (EUFORGEN); title: “Potential invasion of Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) to the EU”  
<https://www.euforgen.org/about-us/news/news-detail/euforgen-webinar-series-case-study-on-ash-dieback-and-its-consequences-on-genetic-diversity/>

**Subject Editor:** for four WoS Impact Factor journals: *Baltic Forestry; Plant Protection Science; Forests; Insects*

**Academy Member:**

1. Latvian Academy of Agricultural & Forestry Sciences (since 2013)
2. Lithuanian Academy of Science (since 2017)