



Dr. Leila Nourani B. Sc., M.Sc., Ph.D.

Postdoc researcher

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Background

Leila Nourani has got her B.Sc., M.Sc. and PhD (biosystematic molecular zoology) from Biology Department, Ferdowsi University of Mashhad in 2008, 2012, and 2017 respectively. During her M.Sc. thesis, she evaluated the "comparative application of mtDNA (COXI) and nDNA (RAGI) in phylogenetic studies of Passeriforms using Khorasan Razavi Province's specimens as a model" and in her Ph.D. She worked on "identification and taxonomy of Passeriformes malaria blood parasites in North of Iran using molecular approach". She was also engaged in two other projects in faculty of agriculture, Ferdowsi University of Mashhad entitled; "Identification of ectoparasites of rodents collected from Mashhad and vicinity", as well as "assessment of the inter-association between the ecological aspects and habitat of rodents and their ectoparasite prevalence in Khorasan Razavi". Soon after graduation she started a new position as postdoc researcher in Malaria and Vector Research Group (MVRG) of Pasteur Institute of Iran.

Areas of Interest & Research Activities:

Identification of blood parasites, especially the genus *Plasmodium*, in the birds and mosquito vectors is her main interest, hoping to understand the mechanisms underlying the plasmodium-vector interaction and the possible application of those newly identified plasmodium species as a model for studying human *Plasmodium* species. She has recently joined the research core group within MVRG that is working on detection of microbiota in Culicidae mosquitoes and their possible use in paratransgenic studies. Main areas of interest are:

- **Morphological and molecular detection of blood parasites (Apicomplexa) in vertebrate host (birds, rodents, reptiles) and mosquito vectors**
- **Morphological and molecular detection of vertebrates' ecto-parasites (Flea, mite, tick, lice)**
- **Hosts and parasites co-evolution and their molecular phylogeny**
- **Molecular systematics and population genetics of parasites**

Current activities:

She is a postdoc researcher, working on morphological and molecular detection of blood parasites (Apicomplexa) in different taxa of birds and vectors from various zoogeographical areas.



Recent Publications (Last three years)

- **Nourani, L.** Aliabadian, M. Dinparast Djadid, N. Mirshamsi, O. Occurrence of *Haemoproteus* spp. (Haemosporida: Haemosproteidae) in new host records of passerines from the east of Iran. *Iranian Journal of Parasitology*. 2018; 13(2).
- **Nourani, L.** Aliabadian, M. Dinparast Djadid, N. Mirshamsi, O. New host records for *Haemoproteus* spp. (Apicomplexa; Haemosporidiasina) in Passeriformes from North-west of Iran. *Arthropod-Borne Diseases*. 2017; 11(2): 226-231.
- Moravvej, G. Hamidi, K. **Nourani, L.** Relationship between the sex and age of *Mus musculus* with ectoparasites prevalence in northeast of Iran. *Persian Journal of Acarology*. 2016; 5(1): 51-62.
- Hamidi, K. **Nourani, L.** Moravvej, G. New rodents' hosts of sucking lice, fleas (Insecta: Anoplura, Siphonaptera) and hard ticks (Acari: Ixodida) from Iran. *Persian Journal of Acarology*. 2016; 5(1): 85-88.
- Moravvej, G. Hamidi, k. **Nourani, L.** Bannazadeh, H. Occurrence of ectoparasitic arthropods (Siphonaptera, Acarina, and Anoplura) on rodents of Khorasan Razavi province, northeast of Iran. *Asian Pacific Journal of Tropical Disease*. 2015; 5(9): 716-720.
- Hamidi, K. **Nourani, L.** Moravvej, G. The relationship of ectoparasite prevalence to the capturing season, locality and species of the murine rodent hosts in Iran. *Persian Journal of Acarology*. 2015; 4(4): 409-423.
- **Nourani, L.** Aliabadian, M. Appraisal of the entire mitochondrial genome for DNA barcoding in birds. *Progress in Biological Sciences*. 2014; 4(2): 167-178.