

DAVID ČERNÝ

Henry Hinds Laboratory
5734 South Ellis Avenue
Chicago, IL 60637-1468

davidcerny@uchicago.edu 
davidcerny.github.io 
github.com/davidcerny 

Education

- 2024 Ph.D. in Geophysical Sciences; University of Chicago
- 2018 B.S. (Honors) in Ecology, Behavior, and Evolution; University of California, Los Angeles

Research Experience

Fall 2018–Spring 2024: Slater Lab

- Affiliation: Department of the Geophysical Sciences, University of Chicago
- Position: Ph.D. candidate
- Ph.D. advisor: Graham J. Slater
- Dissertation title: *Novel approaches to the parametric inference of phylogenies and diversification rates from fossil data*

Winter 2022–Spring 2022: Jablonski Lab

- Affiliation: Department of the Geophysical Sciences, University of Chicago
- Position: Research assistant
- Principal investigator: David Jablonski
- Project: Inferring a comprehensively sampled molecular phylogeny of cardiid bivalves

Fall 2015–Summer 2018: Alfaro Lab

- Affiliation: Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of California, Los Angeles
- Position: Undergraduate research assistant
- Principal investigator: Michael E. Alfaro
- Projects: Phylogenomic divergence dating of vertebrates; Exploration of form-function mapping using a C++ simulation of polygenic trait evolution

Winter 2018: Field & Marine Biology Quarter in Mo'orea

- Affiliation: Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of California, Los Angeles
- Position: Undergraduate student
- Principal investigator: Daniel T. Blumstein
- Project: Applying Lanchester's laws to the interspecific competition of coral reef fish

Summer 2017: Kondrashov Lab

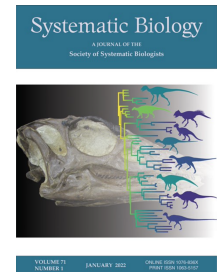
- Affiliation: Evolutionary Genomics Group, Centre de Regulació Genòmica (Centre for Genomic Regulation), Barcelona, Spain
- Position: Research intern
- Principal investigators: Fyodor Kondrashov, Dinara Usmanova
- Project: Detecting positive selection using molecular phylogenies

Publications

Peer-reviewed publications

- 283 citations
- h-index: 5
- i10-index: 5
- [Google Scholar profile](#)

- 2024 Pol D, Baiano MA, Černý D, Novas FE, Cerda IA, Pittman M. A new abelisaurid dinosaur from the end Cretaceous of Patagonia and evolutionary rates among the Ceratosauria. *Cladistics* 40(3): 307–356. doi:10.1111/cla.12583 (cover article)
- 2023 Černý D, Simonoff AL. Statistical evaluation of character support reveals the instability of higher-level dinosaur phylogeny. *Scientific Reports* 13: 9273. doi:10.1038/s41598-023-35784-3
- 2023 Černý D, van Els P, Natale R, Gregory SMS. A new genus-group name for *Burhinus bistriatus* (Wagler, 1829) and *Burhinus superciliiaris* (Tschudi, 1843). *Avian Systematics* 1(3): 31–43.
- 2022 Černý D, Natale R. Comprehensive taxon sampling and vetted fossils help clarify the time tree of shorebirds (Aves, Charadriiformes). *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution* 177: 107620. doi:10.1016/j.ympev.2022.107620
- 2021 Černý D, Madzia D, Slater GJ. Empirical and methodological challenges to the model-based inference of diversification rates in extinct clades. *Systematic Biology* 71(1): 153–171. doi:10.1093/sysbio/syab045 (cover article)
- 2019 Friedman M, Feilich KL, Beckett HT, Alfaro ME, Faircloth BC, Černý D, Miya M, Near TJ, Harrington RC. Ancient adaptive radiation in the open ocean: rapid divergence in Pelagia-ria (Acanthomorpha: Percomorpha) near the Cretaceous-Palaeogene boundary. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B* 286(1910): 20191502. doi:10.1098/rspb.2019.1502
- 2018 Černý D, Lee K, Medal J, Blumstein DT. Applying Lanche-ster’s laws to the interspecific competition of coral reef fish. *Behavioral Ecology* 30(2): 426–433. doi:10.1093/beheco/ary182
- 2018 Lima MGM, de Sousa e Silva-Júnior J, Černý D, Buckner JC, Aleixo A, Chang J, Zheng J, Alfaro ME, Martins A, Di Fiore A, Boubli JP, Lynch Alfaro JW. A phylogenomic perspective on the robust capuchin monkey (*Sapajus*) radiation. *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution* 124: 137–50. doi:10.1016/j.ympev.2018.02.023
- 2018 Alfaro ME, Faircloth BC, Harrington RC, Sorenson L, Friedman M, Thacker CE, Oliveros CH, Černý D, Near TJ. Explosive diversification of marine fishes at the Cretaceous-Paleogene boundary. *Nature Ecology and Evolution* 2: 688–96. doi:10.1038/s41559-018-0494-6



Other publications

- 2020 Černý D. Palaeontology’s greatest ever graphs: Stadler’s sampled tree: *The Palaeontology Newsletter* 105: 63–65.
- 2018 Černý D. [Review of] *Birds of Stone: Chinese Avian Fossils from the Age of Dinosaurs*. *Fossil News*, Summer 2018: 23–27.

Presentations & Posters

Invited presentations

- 2023 **Černý D***. Integrating fossils into the inference of time-calibrated phylogenies and diversification rates: using dinosaurs as a case study. Institut für Paläontologie, Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg, October 24, Erlangen, Germany.
- 2023 **Černý D***. Addressing heterotachy in morphological clock analyses using reversible-jump Markov chain Monte Carlo. XL Annual Meeting of the Willi Hennig Society, July 9–13, Ithaca, NY. (Symposium talk)
- 2022 **Černý D***, Schwery O. Inferring diversification rates from fossil data: assumptions, choices, challenges. *Evolution*, June 24–28, Cleveland, OH. (Symposium talk)

Contributed presentations

- 2023 **Černý D***. Investigating the extent of heterotachy in discrete morphological data using a novel relaxed clock model. 5th Annual Great Lakes Student Paleoconference, November 10–12, Ann Arbor, MI.
- 2023 **Černý D***, Slater GJ. Bayesian Least-Squares Supertrees (BLeSS): a novel method for estimating large time trees. *Evolution*, June 21–25, Albuquerque, NM.
- 2023 **Černý D***, Slater GJ. Bayesian Least-Squares Supertrees (BLeSS): a flexible method for inferring large time-calibrated phylogenies. Society of Systematic Biologists Standalone Meeting, January 14–15, Ciudad de México, Mexico. (Poster)
- 2022 **Černý D***. Relative impact of character coding differences and stratigraphic information on the support for alternative early dinosaur phylogenies. GSA Connects, October 9–12, Denver, CO. [doi:10.1130/abs/2022AM-381871](https://doi.org/10.1130/abs/2022AM-381871)
- 2021 Schwery O*, **Černý D**. Investigating mammal/dung beetle co-diversification. Entomology Annual Meeting, October 31–November 3, Denver, CO. (On-demand virtual talk)
- 2021 **Černý D***, Natale R. Vetted calibrations and comprehensive taxon sampling clarify the timescale of shorebird evolution. *Evolution*, June 21–25, online. (Faux-live talk)
- 2019 **Černý D***, Madzia D, Slater GJ. Evaluating the performance of diversification rate estimation methods in extinct clades with empirical and simulated data. 3rd Annual Great Lakes Student Paleoconference, November 8–10, Ann Arbor, MI.
- 2019 **Černý D***, Madzia D, Slater GJ. Inferring macroevolutionary dynamics of extinct clades: a test using ‘bird-hipped’ dinosaurs (Ornithischia). *Evolution*, June 21–25, Providence, RI.
- 2018 **Černý D***, Lee K, Medal J, Blumstein DT. A fish eat fish world: Applying Lanchester’s laws of combat to the interspecific competition of coral reef fish. 21st UCLA Annual Biology Research Symposium, May 23, Los Angeles, CA. (Poster)
- 2016 **Černý D***, Alfaro ME. Phylogeny and divergence times of tetraodontiform fishes based on a new multi-locus dataset. 19th UCLA Annual Biology Research Symposium, May 11, Los Angeles, CA. (Poster, Honorable mention)

* Presenting author.

Fellowships & Awards

- 2018–Present Neubauer Family Distinguished Doctoral Fellowship. (Neubauer Family Foundation). \$45,000
- Spring 2022 SSB Graduate Student Research Award. *Bayesian inference of large-scale fossil time trees using a novel supertree method*. (Society of Systematic Biologists). \$3,000
- 2014–2018 Bakala Foundation Scholarship. (Bakala Foundation)

Summer 2016 Whitcome Undergraduate Summer Research Fellowship. *Inferring the evolutionary timescale of tetraodontiform fishes (Acanthomorpha: Eupercaria)*. (Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, UCLA). \$3,000

Travel awards

Summer 2023 CloudForest Workshop Travel Award (Louisiana State University). \$1,260
Winter 2023 SSB Standalone Meeting Travel Award (Society of Systematic Biologists). \$500
Winter 2018 A. R. Wallace Scholarship for International Field and Marine Research. (Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, UCLA). \$350

Teaching

Spring 2024, Summer 2023, Spring 2023, Fall 2021 PHSC 13410: Global Warming: Understanding the Forecast. Instructor of record. (4×)
Winter 2024, Winter 2020, Winter 2019 GEOS 27300/13900: Biological Evolution. Teaching assistant. (3×)
Winter 2023, Winter 2021 PHSC 13600: Natural Hazards. Teaching assistant. (2×)
Fall 2022 GEOS 26100: Phylogenetics and the Fossil Record. Teaching assistant.
Spring 2021, Fall 2020, Spring 2020 PHSC 13410: Global Warming: Understanding the Forecast. Lecturer. (3×)
Fall 2019, Fall 2018 PHSC 10800: Earth as a Planet: Exploring Our Place in the Universe. Teaching assistant. (2×)
Spring 2019 PHSC 11000: Environmental History of the Earth. Teaching assistant.

Service

Professional

2019–Present Reviewer for *Communications Biology*, *Ecology and Evolution*, *Nature Ecology & Evolution*, *Palaeontology*, *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*, *Systematic Biology*. ([Publons profile](#))

University

Spring 2016 Stats 13 Focus Group: participated in a panel organized by the UCLA Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology to redesign its undergraduate statistics curriculum.

Outreach

Fall 2021 Helped organize a virtual Open House for Chicago area high school students; gave a talk titled “Figuring Out the Shape of the Tree of Life” and shared experiences of getting into research.
Winter 2019 Volunteered at the 2nd Annual UChicago Science Olympiad Invitational; helped with grading and general logistics.
2015–2016 Edited the Czech online popular science magazine *Wild Prehistory*; contributed articles focusing on vertebrate paleontology and evolutionary history.

Professional Organizations

- 2023–Present Society for the Study of Evolution (student member)
2022–Present Geological Society of America (student member).
2017–Present Society of Systematic Biologists (student member).

Fieldwork Experience

- Winter 2019 Coastal geology and marine biology fieldwork. University of Chicago
One week of fieldwork focused on modern and ancient tropical carbonate environments in San Salvador, The Bahamas.
- Winter 2018 Marine ecology fieldwork. University of California, Los Angeles
Three weeks of fieldwork in algology and behavioral ecology in Mo'orea, French Polynesia.
- Summer 2013, Summer 2012 Paleontological fieldwork. Opole University / University of Warsaw
Two-week field seasons of paleontological excavations focused on collecting Triassic vertebrate macrofossils in Krasiejów, Poland.

Workshop & Hackathon Participation

- Fall 2023 Global RevBayes workshop and hackathon. Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, Munich, Germany, October 9–20.
- Summer 2023 CloudForest: A robust computational platform for visualizing and exploring structure in sets of phylogenetic trees. Pre-conference workshop at Evolution, Albuquerque, NM, June 21.
- Fall 2021 Global RevBayes hackathon. Online-only, October 25–29.
- Spring 2020 Global RevBayes hackathon. Iowa State University, Ames, IA, March 10–13.
- Summer 2019 Taming the BEAST, eh! workshop. Quest University, Squamish, British Columbia, August 12–16.

Skills

- Computing Shell scripting
Computer programming (R, some Python, some C++)
Version control (git)
Document markup (Markdown, XML, L^AT_EX)
Text editing and regular expressions (vim, sed, awk)
Batch processing (Slurm)
Software development (gdb, RStudio, Xcode)
- Software Gblocks, Geneious, MUSCLE, PartitionFinder, Phyluce, PRANK, SATé, SortaDate (multiple sequence alignment, partitioning, and filtering), ASTRAL, ExaBayes, IQ-TREE, MrBayes, PAUP*, RAxML, RAxML-NG, RevBayes (phylogenetic inference), BEAST (1 & 2), DPPDiv, Multidivtime, PAML, PhyloBayes, treePL (divergence time estimation), BAMM, PyRate (diversification rate estimation)
- Languages Fluent in Czech
Good understanding of written scientific Spanish
Good understanding of written scientific Russian
Basic knowledge of Latin
- Certificates Tensorflow 2 and Keras Deep Learning Bootcamp, Udemy (in progress).

Last updated May 21, 2024