

Iris Stiers, VUB Local Coordinator

Iris Stiers is an Assistant Professor. She is a member of the Multidisciplinary Institute for Teacher Education Science & Technology and the research group 'Ecology and Biodiversity'. She holds a PhD in Biological Sciences, a Msc in Biology and an Academic Teacher Training Degree. Her PhD was funded by the Belgian Science Policy and dealt with biodiversity impacts of invasive aquatic plants. Her current research focuses on (management of) invasive aquatic plants including citizen science, the role of macrophytes in biodiversity conservation and STEM education both in Europe and in the South. At present she teaches courses on Biology and Chemistry didactics, Global Change Biology and River and Lake Ecology. She has long-term experience and educational cooperation with Vietnam, Ethiopia, South Africa, Argentina and Europe. She supervised many national and international MSc students on aquatic ecology and science education topics.

1	Family name	Stiers		
2	First name	Iris		
3	Place and Date of birth	Diest, 18/05/1983		
4	Nationality	Belgian		
5	E-mail	istiers@vub.be		
6	Education / Professional studies			
	Dates (from-to)	Institution	Degree/diploma	
	2007-2014	Vrije Universiteit Brussel	PhD Aquatic Ecology	
	2005-2006	Vrije Universiteit Brussel	Academic Teacher Training Degree	
	2000-2004	Vrije Universiteit Brussel	Msc Biology	
7	Language skills Grade skill 1-5 (1 = basic, 5 = excellent, * = mother tongue)			
	Language	Speaking	Reading	Writing
	Dutch	*	*	*
	English	5	5	5
	French	2	3	2
	Spanish	1	1	1
8	Membership of professional bodies			
	Associate Editor 'Aquatic Invasions' journal Expert for the European Plant Protection Organisation regarding invasive species			
9	Other Skills			
	Data analysis, research, project writing and management			
10	Name of organisation currently working for and Present position in the organisation	Vrije Universiteit Brussel Assistant Professor		

11	Years with the organisation	15	
12	Long-term experience in selected countries/territories		
	Country	Date	Details
	Ethiopia	2014	Research on aquatic ecology
	Vietnam	2014	Research on aquatic ecology
	South Africa	2018	Research on biological control
	Argentina	2018	Research and education on biological invasions
13	Professional experience record		
	Location	Date	Organisation
1	Brussels	2007	Vrije Universiteit Brussel
	Position	PhD student, post-doc, professor	
	Responsibilities	Research, education, project writing and management, team leader	
14	Publications		
	Number of publications in peer-reviewed journals		
	22		
	10 Publications that are most representative in the field of tropical biodiversity and ecosystems		
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Sosa A, Jimenez N, Faltlhauser A, Righetti T, McKay F, Bruzonne O, Stiers I, Souto A. (2022) The educational community and its knowledge and perceptions of native and invasive alien species. <i>Scientific Reports</i> 11, 21474 https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-021-00683-y Minuti G, Coetzee JA, Ngxande-Koza S, Hill MP, Stiers I (2021) Prospects for the biological control of <i>Iris pseudacorus</i> L. (Iridaceae). <i>Biocontrol Science and Technology</i> 31: 314-335. Sileshi A, Awoke A, Beyene A, Stiers I, Triest L (2020) Water Purifying Capacity of Natural Riverine Wetlands in Relation to Their Ecological Quality. <i>Frontiers in Environmental Science</i> 8 : 39. doi: 10.3389/fenvs.2020.00039 Phan TTH, Stiers I, Nguyen TTH, Pham TT, Ton TP, Luong QD, Triest L (2018) Spatial and temporal distribution of submerged aquatic vegetation in a tropical coastal lagoon habitat in Vietnam. <i>Botanica Marina</i> 61: 213-224 Geremew AY, Stiers I, Sierens T, Kefalew A, Triest L (2018) Clonal growth strategy, diversity and structure: A spatio-temporal response to sedimentation in tropical <i>Cyperus papyrus</i> swamps. <i>PLoS ONE</i> 13(1):e0190810. Stiers I, Triest L (2017) Low interspecific pollen transfer between the invasive aquatic plant <i>Ludwigia grandiflora</i> and native plants. <i>Biological Invasions</i> 19: 2913–2925. Stiers I, Triest L (2017) Impact of non-native invasive plant species cover on phytoplankton and zooplankton communities in temperate ponds. <i>Aquatic Invasions</i> 12: 385-395. Gebrehiwot M, Kifle D, Stiers I, Triest L (2017) Phytoplankton functional dynamics in a shallow polymictic tropical lake: the influence of emergent macrophytes. <i>Hydrobiologia</i> 797: 69–86. Ahossou OD, Fandohan AB, Stiers I, Schmidt M, Assogbadjo AE (2017) Extraction of Timber and Non-Timber Products from the Swamp Forest of Lokoli (Benin): Use Patterns, 		

	<p>Harvesting Impacts and Management Options. International Forestry Review 19:133-144.</p> <p>10. Triest L, Stiers I, Van Onsem S (equal contribution as first author) (2016) Biomanipulation as a nature-based solution to reduce cyanobacterial blooms. Aquatic Ecology 50: 461-483.</p>		
15	Number of conference presentations (between brackets invited contributions)		
	Ca. 20 (5)		
16	Most important awards		
	Award	Award date	Issuing organisation