Edyta Mazur

Project focus: *Lichen Diversity, DNA Sequencing, and Bioindicator Research*
📍 **Poland / France / Europe**
🔗 LinkedIn

About the project
Edyta is a biodiversity researcher working on two interconnected projects centered on lichens—organisms that are increasingly recognized for their ecological, pharmaceutical, and scientific value. One project explores lichen diversity and the discovery of new secondary metabolites, connecting biodiversity research with public education and climate awareness. The second project applies advanced DNA sequencing technologies to resolve long-standing taxonomic uncertainties by analyzing both recent and historical herbarium specimens.

Her research supports biodiversity conservation, climate change monitoring, and sustainable industrial innovation. Edyta is also building new methodologies to extract and sequence degraded DNA from historical samples, contributing to the accuracy of global genetic databases.

What she's working toward
In the next year, Edyta aims to strengthen her skills in next-generation sequencing (NGS), bioinformatics, and data analysis. Her goals include successfully extracting DNA from rare historical specimens, publishing her findings in peer-reviewed journals, and sharing her work through conferences and public outreach. She also hopes to expand access to genomic lab infrastructure and enhance her lab's capacity to conduct cutting-edge biodiversity research.

Global relevance
Edyta's work intersects directly with urgent global issues including climate change, biodiversity loss, and sustainable development. By using lichens as bioindicators, her research provides tools for tracking environmental degradation and supports international efforts under frameworks like the Paris Agreement. Her exploration of natural compounds found in lichens also opens doors to sustainable alternatives in the pharmaceutical and cosmetics industries. Her cross-border collaboration between Poland and France reinforces European scientific integration.

How the ReDefine community can support her
Edyta is looking for mentorship in advanced sequencing technologies, as well as access to training in bioinformatics and funding opportunities to modernize her genomic lab. She's especially interested in technical collaboration and shared learning opportunities around degraded DNA sequencing and public engagement in biodiversity science.

supported by Visegrad Fund