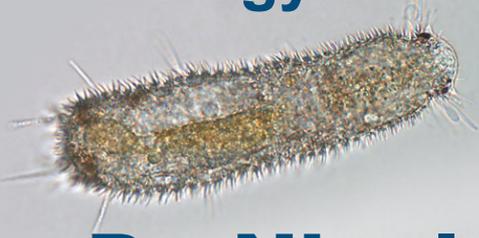




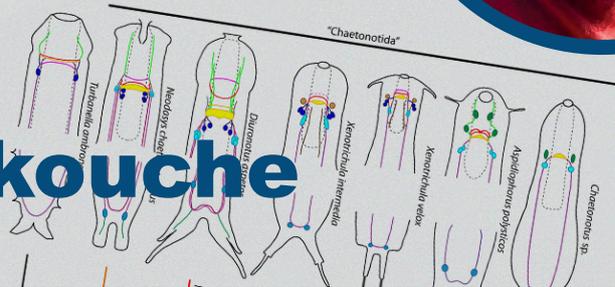
# TALKING ABOUT TAXONOMY

Center for Biodiversity and Integrative Taxonomy (KomBioTa)

## The curious world of Gastrotricha (Metazoa, Spiralia), biology and current research



**Dr. Nicolas Bekkouche**  
Sorbonne University



Photos: Marin Faunistik,  
Thaumastoderma heidei,  
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Nicolas Bekkouche.

**Tue, June 11th, 2024 | 3 pm**

Stuttgart State Museum of Natural History (Löwentor)

Gastrotricha is a small phylum of microscopic worms living in aquatic environments and characterized by a ventral locomotory ciliation. Although virtually occurring all around the globe, they are still largely understudied.

Nicolas Bekkouche will introduce this overlooked taxon, what is known, and what is still to know including his researches past and present on their taxonomy and anatomy.

Furthermore, he will present his future research on a different taxon, *Osedax*, a very peculiar Annelida feeding on sunken bones of vertebrates, since he recently joined a team working on deep sea environments.

**Dr. Nicolas Bekkouche** started as an assistant professor, recently, in 2023, at Sorbonne Université in Paris (France). He previously defended his PhD thesis in Copenhagen, Denmark, and continued his research in France at Sorbonne Université afterward.

His current research project focuses on *Osedax*, an annelid feeding on sunken bones of vertebrates. His primary interest remains with understudied taxa, mostly at the phylum level, including Gastrotricha, Micrognathozoa, Gnathostomulida, Ctenophora, etc. with a phylogenetic and a morpho-anatomical approach.

All interested people are invited to join the lecture and the subsequent discussion!

If you are unable to attend in person, you can participate via Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/94510498226>.

This talk is organized within the Research Colloquium of the Natural History Museum Stuttgart (SMNS).