

NorthTox keynote speaker:

Alexandre Antonelli – short biography

Professor Alexandre Antonelli is the Director of Science at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. He is also Professor in Biodiversity and Systematics at the University of Gothenburg and Visiting Professor at the Department of Plant Science at the University of Oxford. He was the founder and first Director of the Gothenburg Global Biodiversity Centre, established during his time as Scientific Curator of the Gothenburg Botanical Garden.



© Magnus Bergström / KAW

Antonelli's passion is nature, and his mission mirrors that of RBG Kew's: to understand and protect biodiversity for the well-being of people and the future of all life on Earth. To this end, he studies the distribution, evolution, threats and sustainable uses of species and develops methods to speed up scientific discovery and innovation. His research focuses on the tropics, where most species occur and the threats are most acute. Most recently he has been particularly interested in the application of machine learning techniques for biodiversity research and conservation.

He has published over 200 peer-reviewed scientific articles and book chapters and his work has been cited over 15,500 times. He was named on the Web of Science/Clarivate 2020, 2021 and 2022 'Highly Cited Researchers' list, which identifies pioneering researchers in the top 1% of their field, and is the recipient of the prestigious 2022 Senckenberg Prize for Nature Research. In 2022, his first popular science book, *The Hidden Universe – Adventures in Biodiversity*, was published in several countries and languages.

You can read more about his work at <http://antonelli-lab.net/> and <https://www.kew.org/science/our-science/people/alexandre-antonelli>