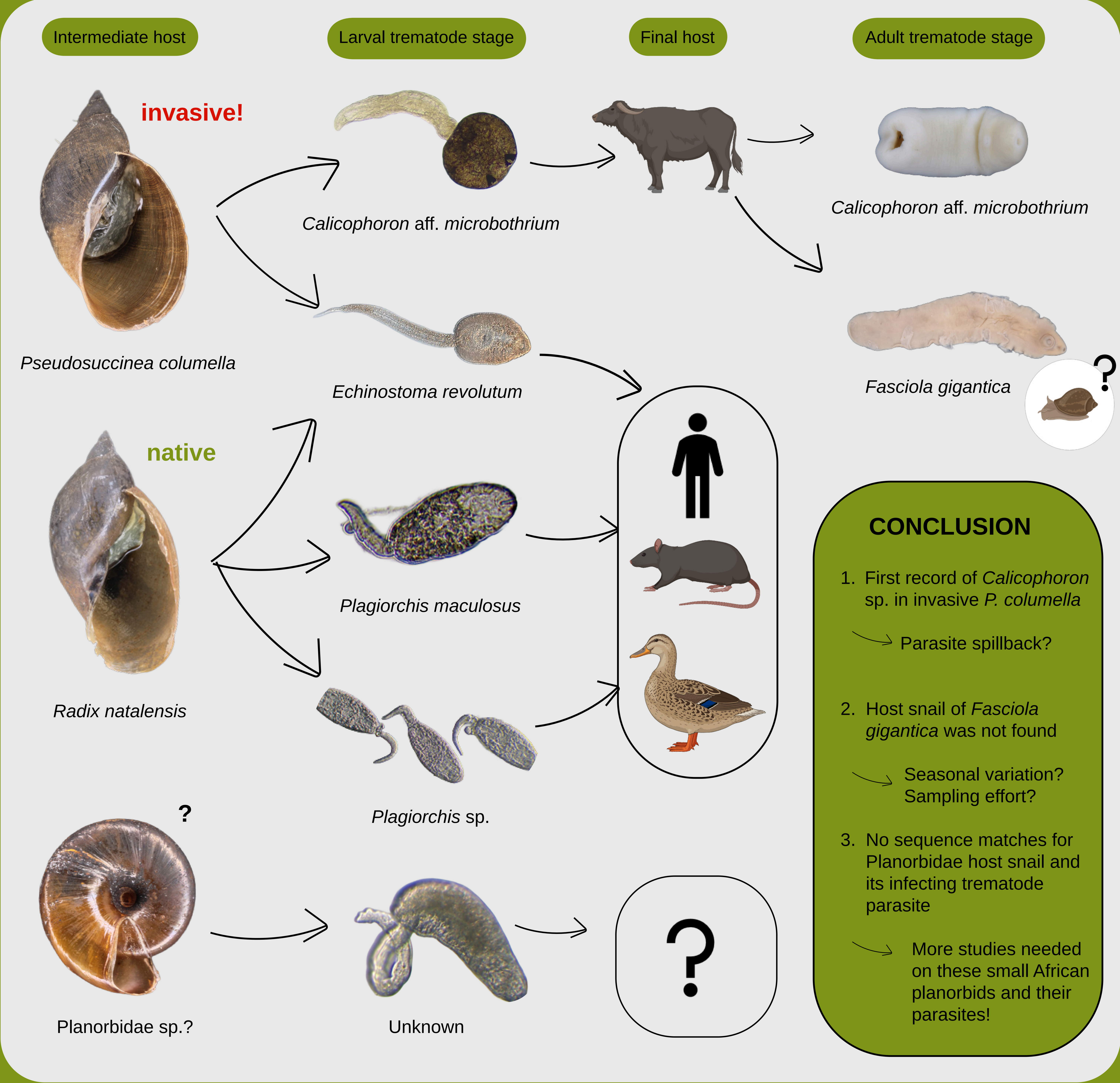
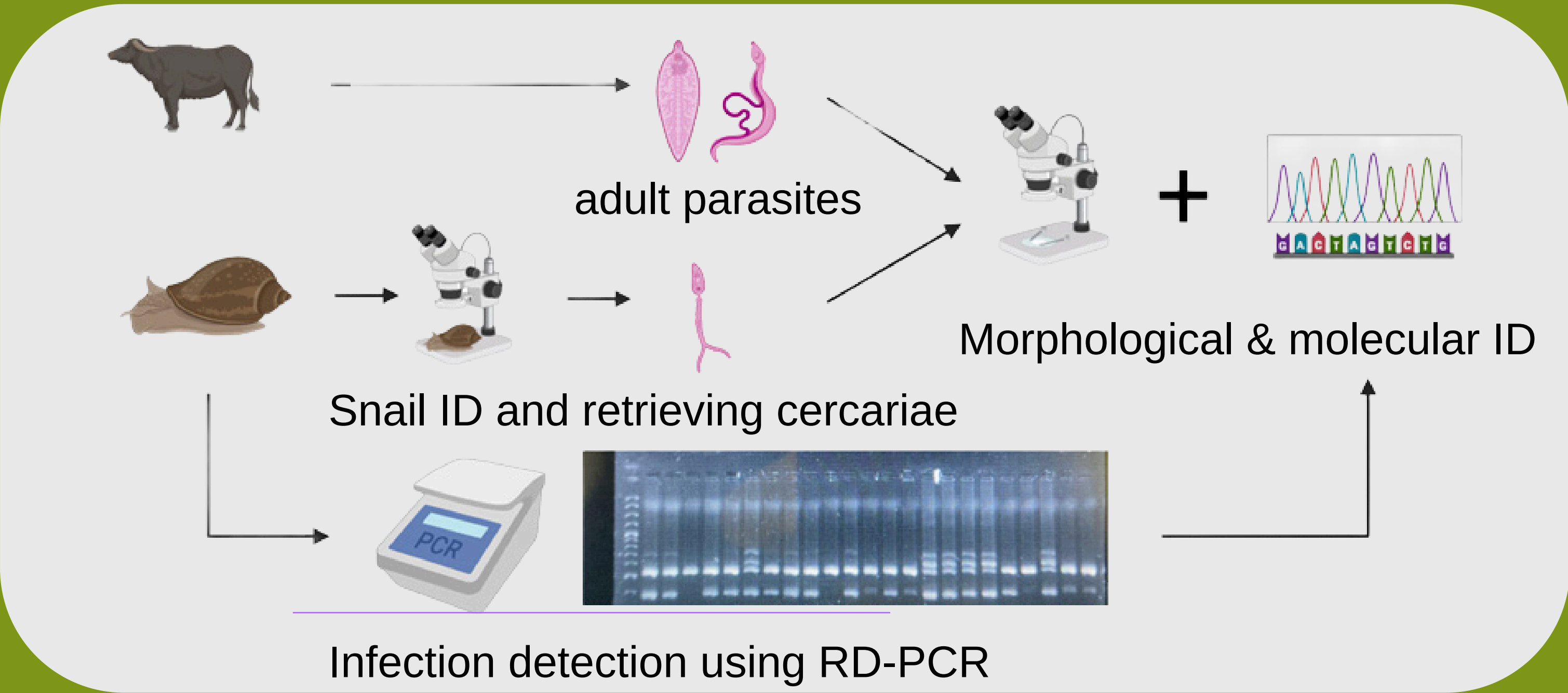


# Invasive snails may drive fluke infection of African buffalo in Zimbabwe

Emilie Goossens<sup>1,2,3</sup>, Ruben Schols<sup>2,3,4</sup>, Aspire Mudavanhu<sup>3,4,5</sup>, Maarten P. M. Vanhove<sup>1</sup>, Joachim Mariën<sup>2</sup> & Tine Huyse<sup>3</sup>



- A buffalo herd in Imire Game Park suffered a sudden wave of mortality in 2023
- A dissected buffalo was infected with liver- and stomach flukes (snail-borne parasites)
- Which intermediate host snails are driving the transmission dynamics?



CONCLUSION

1. First record of *Calicophoron* sp. in invasive *P. columella*

→ Parasite spillback?

2. Host snail of *Fasciola gigantica* was not found

→ Seasonal variation? Sampling effort?

3. No sequence matches for Planorbidae host snail and its infecting trematode parasite

→ More studies needed on these small African planorbids and their parasites!