

# Vrinda Ravi Kumar

Biology Centre, Czech Academy of Sciences, Branišovská, 370 05 České Budějovice, Czechia  
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## Research Experience

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### Postdoctoral Scientist - Biology Centre, Czech Academy of Sciences

České Budějovice, Czechia

ADVISOR: DR. JAN HRČEK

June 2022 - present

- Eco-evolutionary dynamics of host-parasitoid communities
- Behavioural ecology of host-parasitoid interactions

### Independent Consultant - Turtle Shell Technologies

Bangalore, India

INNOVATION IN CLINICAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

February-April 2022

- Literature and technological review on the clinical presentation and use of monitoring on neurological disorders
- Gap analysis on health care surrounding ischemic strokes

### Research Associate - National Centre for Biological Sciences

Bangalore, India

ADVISOR: DR. DEEPA AGASHE

Sep 2020 - June 2021

- Ecological linkages between reproductive choice, fitness and context-dependence

### Research Scholar - National Centre for Biological Sciences

Bangalore, India

ADVISOR: DR. DEEPA AGASHE

Aug 2014 - Sep 2020

- Evolutionary ecology of beetle niche preference
- Density-dependent impacts on reproductive behaviour and habitat use
- Ancestral and demographic determinants of population performance in degraded environments

### Visiting Scholar - Max Planck Institute for Chemical Ecology

Jena, Germany

HOST: DR. EWALD GROSSE-WILDE

August 2015

- Structural annotation of olfactory receptor genes in the *Tribolium castaneum* whole genome

### Undergraduate Research Scholar - Indian Institute of Science Education and Research

Mohali, India

ADVISOR: DR. N.G. PRASAD

2013-2014

- Intrasexual *Drosophila* aggression across varying levels of intersexual conflict
- Developed temporal sampling strategy to reliably construct ethograms of distinct aggressive behaviours

## Education

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### National Centre for Biological Sciences

Bangalore, India

PHD IN ECOLOGY, EVOLUTION AND BEHAVIOUR

Aug 2014 - Sep 2020

- Thesis: Adjust and Adapt: Behavioural and Evolutionary Responses of a Generalist to Novel Environments

### Indian Institute of Science Education and Research

Mohali, India

INTEGRATED BS-MS IN BIOLOGY

Aug 2009 - May 2014

- Thesis: War and Peace: Male-to-Male Aggression in *Drosophila melanogaster* Populations Selected for Different Levels of Sexual Conflict
- Minor in Humanities and Social Sciences

## Publications

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### PUBLISHED

**Ravi Kumar, V.**, Issar, S., Agashe, D. 2018. The Induction of Larval Resource Preference in Heterogeneous Habitats. *Ecological Entomology*, 43(6): 719-730.

### IN REVIEW

**Ravi Kumar, V.**, Agavekar, G., Agashe, D. Fitness Landscapes Reveal Context-Dependent Benefits of Oviposition Choice. (submitted, preprint available; DOI : <https://doi.org/10.1101/2021.05.27.445916>)

### IN PREP

**Ravi Kumar, V.**, Buddh, S., Singhal, S., Agashe, D. Reproductive Success Drives Evolutionary Rescue and Subsequent Population Persistence.

## Awards, Fellowships & Grants

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2021	Science Writers 2021 Support Grant, National Association of Science Writers	\$ 325
2020	International Travel Grant, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research	₹ 78,121
2019	Infosys Foundation Travel Award, Infosys Foundation	₹ 1,00,000
2018	International Travel Award, Society for the Study of Evolution	\$ 1,590
2015	Junior Research Fellowship (National Rank - 33), Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, University Grant Commission	
2012	Undergraduate Summer Research Fellowship, Indian Academy of Sciences (declined)	
2011	Undergraduate Summer Research Fellowship, Indian Academy of Sciences	
2009-2014	Kishore Vaigyanik Protsahan Yojana (KVPY) undergraduate fellowship, Department of Science and Technology	₹ 4,00,000

## Conferences, Courses & Workshops

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- 2022 European Society for Evolutionary Biology meeting, Prague, Czechia. **Poster:** Fitness landscapes reveal context-dependent benefits of oviposition behaviour.
- 2022 Annual Meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, virtual conference.
- 2021 58th Annual Conference of the Animal Behavior Society, virtual conference. **Talk:** Fitness landscapes reveal context-dependent benefits of oviposition choice.
- 2021 National Centre for Biological Sciences Annual Talks, Bangalore, India. **Talk:** Context-dependence of (mal)adaptive oviposition preference.
- 2020 Exploring Sustainability in the Indian Context, Azim Premji University, Bangalore, India.
- 2020 Global Landscapes Forum Biodiversity Digital Conference: One World - One Health, virtual conference.
- 2020 National Centre for Biological Sciences Annual Talks, Bangalore, India. **Poster:** The path to success: ancestral correlates of adaptive dynamics in novel habitats.
- 2020 American Society of Naturalists' Standalone Meeting, California, USA. **Poster:** The path to success: ancestral correlates of adaptive dynamics in novel habitats.
- 2019 Indian Society of Evolutionary Biologists' meeting, Bangalore, India. **Poster:** The path to success: ancestral correlates of adaptive dynamics in novel habitats.
- 2019 European Society for Evolutionary Biology meeting, Turku, Finland. **Talk:** Ancestral correlates of adaptive dynamics in novel habitats.

- 2018 2<sup>nd</sup> Joint Congress on Evolutionary Biology, Montpellier, France. **Poster:** Predicting adaptive dynamics in different habitats using ancestral trait values.
- 2017 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Science Journalism Workshop. Organizers - Anil Ananthaswamy and Peter Aldhous.
- 2017 National Centre for Biological Sciences Annual Talks, Bangalore, India. **Poster:** "Last seen at": experience-mediated shifts in the food choice of a generalist beetle.
- 2017 Conference on Evolutionary and Integrative Biology, Pune, India. **Poster:** Does mother know best? Experience-mediated resource preference in a generalist beetle.
- 2016 India - Behaviour, Ecology and Evolution Conference, Nainital, India.
- 2015 National Conference on Ethology and Evolution, Mohali, India. **Poster:** The role of olfaction in beetle resource preference.
- 2015 K.S. Krishnan School for Chemical Ecology, Bangalore, India. **Poster:** The role of olfaction in beetle resource preference.

## Teaching & Mentoring Experience

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- 2019-2020 Teaching Assistant, Culture of Scientific Research, National Centre for Biological Sciences
- 2018-2019 Teaching Assistant, Culture of Scientific Research, National Centre for Biological Sciences
- 2016 Teaching Assistant, Evolution and Diversity, National Centre for Biological Sciences
- 2016-2020 Mentor for 3 graduate students and 4 undergraduate summer interns, National Centre for Biological Sciences

## Academic Service & Outreach

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### ACADEMIC SERVICE

- 2019-2021 Peer-reviewed manuscripts for the *Journal of Evolutionary Biology* and *Journal of Experimental Biology*
- 2018-2019 Developed and ran seminars on gender sensitization and workplace conduct for the student body, National Centre for Biological Sciences
- 2017-2019 Graduate representative, Internal Complaints Committee, National Centre for Biological Sciences
- 2017-2018 Designed and conducted a survey assessing student mental health on campus, analyzed and disseminated the results to the institute community
- 2016-2017 Committee Member, Women's Cell, National Centre for Biological Sciences
- 2015-2017 Coordinator, Ecology & Evolution Journal Club, National Centre for Biological Sciences
- 2016 Organizer, Tangled Bank student symposium, National Centre for Biological Sciences
- 2016 Volunteer, India - Behaviour, Ecology, Evolution Conference
- 2013 Organizer, Opportunity Cell, Indian Institute for Science Education and Research
- 2013 Cultural Secretary, Student Representative Council, Indian Institute for Science Education and Research

### SCIENCE OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATION

- 2022 Student Reporter for the National Association of Science Writers (NASW) at the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Annual Meeting.
- 2021 Worked in collaboration with the echo network, a social innovation partnership, to develop outreach material for social media
- 2021 Freelance science journalist and editor
- 2019 Foundation Day lead, an outreach initiative by the National Centre for Biological Sciences
- 2018 Science Communicator, National Centre for Biological Sciences News Office
- 2012 Editor, "Manthan", student-run magazine; planned content, solicited, wrote and edited articles

2012 Member, Youth's Attempt to Nurture, an outreach initiative targeted at underprivileged children,  
Indian Institute for Science Education and Research

## References

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References available on request.