

KRISHNA ANUJAN

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

My work is at the interface of community and ecosystem ecology. I am interested in integrating theories on ecological networks with the field of biodiversity and ecosystem functioning (BEF). Specifically, I am interested in how landscape modification affects plant-insect interactions to ecosystem stability in the Andaman islands, a tropical archipelago.

EDUCATION

Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Pune <i>BS-MS Dual Degree (Distinction), Concentration: Biology (CGPA - 9.1/10)</i>	August 2010 - May 2015
Cochin Refineries School, Ambalamugal, Kerala <i>Class 12, Central Board for Secondary Education (97.4%)</i> <i>Class 10, Central Board for Secondary Education (96.8%)</i>	June 1996 - April 2010

SELECTED AWARDS

Best Poster Award, Student Conference on Conservation Sciences, Bangalore (SCCS-Bng)	2015
Dean's List, IISER Pune	2010-2015
Junior Research Fellowship, Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR), India	2014
KVPY Fellowship, Department of Science and Technology, Government of India	2010-2015
Scholarship for Excellence in Biology, Department of Biotechnology, Government of India	2010
NTSE scholarship, National Council for Educational Research and Training, Government of India	2008

SELECTED RESEARCH PROJECTS

The effect of fragmentation on predator-prey systems March 2017 - present
Advisor: Dr. Duncan Menge and Prof. Shahid Naeem, Columbia University
I developed a theoretical model to study the impact of habitat loss and fragmentation on metacommunity dynamics of predator-prey systems at the landscape level.

The effect of aboveground and litter arthropods on the BEF relationship September 2016 - present
Advisor: Prof. Shahid Naeem and Prof. Maria Uriarte, Columbia University
Statistical analysis of a biodiversity-ecosystem functioning experiment to study the effects of arthropods on multiple ecosystem functions.

Long-term Ecosystem Monitoring Network (LEMoN) project August 2015 - August 2016
Advisor: Dr. Jayashree Ratnam and Dr. Mahesh Sankaran, NCBS, Bangalore, India.
LEMoN is a collaborative project monitoring vegetation dynamics across environmental gradients in the Indian subcontinent. I managed the field work and data from two plots in the Andaman Islands.

Effect of introduced chital (*Axis axis*) on forest vegetation in the Andaman Is. May 2014 - Present
Advisor: Dr. Jayashree Ratnam, NCBS, Bangalore, India.
(*MS Thesis*) Study on the impact of introduced spotted deer on the structure, composition and functional traits of plant communities in evergreen forests of the Andaman Islands. Across a gradient of deer habitat use intensity, I sampled adult trees, understory and leaf traits (SLA and leaf thickness) to assess the status of these forests nearly 100 years after introduction of these novel herbivores. I compared the size-density distributions of trees, community composition of different size classes and community-weighted functional traits across different communities. (*Manuscript in preparation*)

Sex-selective predation and related oviposition strategies of *Aedes aegypti* larvae May - July, 2013
Advisor: Dr. Kavita Isvaran, Centre for Ecological Studies, Indian Institute of Science(IISc), Bangalore
Aimed to explore sex biased predation on *Aedes aegypti* larvae by its natural predators, dragonfly nymphs in controlled laboratory conditions and to explain the patterns in variation in resource uptake as exhibited by a variation in wing lengths of the eclosed adults.

Elevational distribution of felids in Western Arunachal Pradesh May - December, 2012
Advisor: Dr. Ramana Athreya, IISER Pune.
Co-Advisor: Dr. Shomita Mukherjee, Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON)
Field work and DNA analysis of felid scat to develop an elevational distribution of the species in the evergreen forests of western Arunachal Pradesh.

ADVANCED ELECTIVES

- Fundamentals of Ecology
- Fundamentals of Evolution
- Statistical Modelling
- Forest Ecology
- GIS for Resource Management
- Theoretical Ecology

CONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS

Student Conference on Conservation Sciences, New York	Sep 2016
Organised a Birding Workshop to train tour guides in Port Blair, A&N Islands	June 2016
Student Conference on Conservation Sciences, Bangalore (SCCS-Bng)	Sep 2015
Being Social, Conference on Animal Behaviour and Social Biology, IISc, Bangalore	Jun 2013
Winter School on Animal Behaviour and Evolution by Dr. R Gadagkar, IISER Pune	Jan 2013
Student Conference on Conservation Sciences, Bangalore (SCCS-Bng)	Sep 2011
KVPY's Vigyan Jyoti Shibir (Vijyoshi) Camp	Dec 2010

RELEVANT SKILLS

- Programming and statistics - R, Python
- DNA Extraction, PCR
- ArcGIS
- LaTeX
- Adobe Indesign, Adobe Illustrator, GIMP
- PADI certified Open Water Diver

PUBLICATIONS

Sridharan B, Mohanty N P, Anujan K and Nelaballi S, 2017, "Violet cuckoo *Chrysococcyx xanthorhyncus* in the Andaman Islands" in *Indian Birds*

Anujan K and Purushothan C, 2017 "Big blue, Tall green" in *Sanctuary Asia*