

KAVITHA UNNI K K

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ABOUT ME

I have a strong interest in community and behavioral ecology, as well as a deep appreciation for nature and science. Outside of my ecological work, I enjoy dance and music. I'm always looking for new opportunities to expand my knowledge and contribute to ecological research.

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Science and Master of Science(BSMS), Biology

August 2019 - July 2024

Indian Institute of Science Education and Research(IISER), Tirupati

Major in Biology

- Evolution, Advanced ecology, Behavioural ecology
- Cell biology, Advanced molecular biology, Genetics, Microbiology
- Animal physiology, Animal development and biology

Master's thesis in Ecology

Title : "Understanding patterns of sympatry and resource partitioning in mesocarnivores"

Higher Secondary Education

June 2017 - March 2019

T R K H S S Vaniyamkulam

- Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics

Higher School Education

T R K H S S Vaniyamkulam

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- Master's thesis -

"Understanding patterns of sympatry and resource partitioning in mesocarnivores"

To gain insights into the spatial separation of small carnivore patterns in Kachchh, Gujarat, we combined data from camera traps, direct sightings and genetic identification of fecal samples. The diet of the genetically confirmed scat samples was studied using light microscopic examination of the undigested remains. Hair isolated from scats were identified using a high-resolution DIC microscope.

- Leopard conflict case 2023, Tirumala Hills

I was involved in a leopard conflict case in the Tirumala Hills, focusing on lab work for species identification and assisting with individual identification using camera trap image analysis. I also participated in the initial sample collection phase, gathering evidence from the field.

CONFERENCES

59th Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation(ATBC 2023,Coimbatore):

- Presented poster on “Co-occurrence of sympatric carnivores in a matrix of habitat types”

14th Students Conference on Conservation Science(SCCS 2023, Bengaluru):

- Presented poster on “Co-occurrence of sympatric carnivores in a matrix of habitat types”

Inter-IISER Eology Meet 2024, IISER Tirupati : Participated

Indian Wildlife Ecology Conference 2024, Bengaluru :

- Presented “Understanding the diet of sympatric small cats using microscopy” in the Small Cats Interest Group Meeting.
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WORKSHOPS

- An Introduction to DNA Metabarcoding and its Applications for Studying Biodiversity - Dr. Mousumi Ghosh
 - Analysing Count Data - Fitting and Interpreting Generalized Linear Models (GLMs) - Dr. Kavita Isvaran
 - From samples to sequences: An introduction to DNA metabarcoding" - Prof. Henrik Krehenwinkle, Dr Susan Kennedy and Dr. Jahnavi Joshi
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COURSE AND SEMESTER PROJECTS

- Course project - “Diversity of butterflies in IISER Tirupati temporary campus and their flower visiting behaviours”
 - Course project - “Male-male combats in Calotes versicolor: Does size really matter?”
 - Semester project - Poster presentation on “The Small Carnivores of Kutch”
 - Semester project - Poster presentation on “Co-occurrence of sympatric carnivores in a matrix of habitat types”
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SKILLS

- Laboratory work - DNA Extraction, Stereo and DIC Microscopy, PCR, Gel electrophoresis, DNA metabarcoding etc
- Field work - Sample collection, Camera trapping etc
- R programming, GIS, Geneious
- Basic video editing skills

Languages

Converse in : Malayalam, English and Hindi Read and Write : Malayalam, English and Hindi

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- Dancing - Inter IISER Cultural Meet 2022 Group Dance Runner up
 - Singing, Drawing etc
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