

# Biplabendu Das

Genomics and Bioinformatics Cluster  
Biological Sciences  
University of Central Florida  
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## Education

### **2017-current**

Doctoral Candidate, Integrative Biology, University of Central Florida, USA.

### **2016-17**

Master of Science in Biology, Indian Institute of Science (IISc), India.

### **2012-16**

Bachelor of Science (Research), IISc, India | *Biology Major & Earth Sciences Minor*

## Scholarships and Awards

- 2019 *Best poster award*, Indo-Swiss Meeting on Evolutionary Biology
- 2019 *Presentation Fellowship*, UCF College of Sciences
- 2019 *International Travel Award*, UCF Student Government Association
- 2019 *International Travel Grant*, UCF Biology Department
- 2019 *Best paper award*, Co-authored review paper in Myrmecological News
- 2018 *Arnold Havarlee Exploration Endowed Scholarship*
- 2018 *Travel Award*, UCF Student Government Association
- 2018 *Travel Grant*, UCF Biology Department
- 2017 *Travel Award for International Students*, ESEB Conference (declined)
- 2016 *Associate Member*, Sigma Xi - The Scientific Research Society
- 2015 *Sigma Xi Grant-in-Aid of Research (GIAR) grant* (bachelor thesis)
- 2015 *ISTernship scholarship*, Institute of Science and Technology, Austria
- 2013-17 *Kishore Vigyan Protsahan Yojana (KVPY) scholarship*, DST, India
- 2012-13 *Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE) scholarship*, DST, India
- 2007 *Junior Scientist Award* at 15th National Children Science Congress, India

## Research

**2017-present** *Do zombie-ants keep time? An investigation of the chronobiological basis for parasitic manipulation of host behavior.* [Doctoral thesis]

Supervisor Dr. Charissa de Bekker, Biological Sciences, University of Central Florida, USA

**2018-present** *Epigenetic changes in host ant brains during parasitic behavioral manipulation*

Collaborative work with Dr. Shelly Berger's lab at University of Pennsylvania. [collaboration]

**2016-17** *Dynamics of food distribution in a colony of the primitively eusocial wasp *Ropalidia marginata** [Master's thesis]

Supervisor Prof. Raghavendra Gadagkar, Centre for Ecological Science (CES), IISc, India

**2015-16** *Ant colony responses to viral infection* [Bachelor's thesis]

Supervisors Dr. Sylvia Cremer & Dr. Matthias Fürst, IST, Austria

Co-supervisor Prof. Raghavendra Gadagkar, CES, IISc, India

## Publications

(2021) **Das, B.** and *de Bekker, C.* Time-course RNASeq of *Camponotus floridanus* forager and nurse ant brains suggests links between plasticity in the biological clock and behavioral division of labor. (currently in review, available on bioRxiv)

(2020) *Will, I., Das, B., Trinh, T., Brachmann, A., Ohm, R. A., de Bekker, C.* Genetic underpinnings of host manipulation by *Ophiocordyceps* as revealed by comparative transcriptomics. *G3: Genes, Genomes, Genetics*

(2018) *de Bekker, C., Will, I., Das, B., Adams, R.M.M.* The ants (Hymenoptera: Formicidae) and their parasites: effects of parasitic manipulations and host responses on ant behavioral ecology. *Myrmecological News* 28:1-24

## Academic presentations

Upcoming:

2022 **Invited Symposium Talk**, 19th IUSSI International Congress, USA (accepted invitation)

2021 **Talk**, Annual Conference of the Animal Behavior Society, USA (applied)

2021 **Poster**, Gordon Research Conference on Chronobiology, USA (accepted)

2021 **Poster**, Gordon Research Seminar on Chronobiology, USA (accepted)

Presented:

2021 **Poster**, Symposium on Biological Timekeeping, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory

2021 **Poster**, Annual Research Symposium, UCF

2019 **Three-minute Lightning talk**, Genomics & Bioinformatics Cluster Showcase, UCF

2019 **Poster**, Genomics & Bioinformatics Cluster Showcase, UCF

2019 **Poster**, 12th ANeT, World Ant Forum in Bangkok, Thailand

2019 **Poster**, 2nd Indo-Swiss meeting in Evolutionary Biology, India

## Workshops & Softwares

2018 *Ants of the Southwest*. Workshop hosted by American Museum of Natural History  
Venue: Southwest Research Station (SWRS), Arizona, USA (attendee)

2021 *Shiny app for comparative genomics and transcriptomics*. Open-source software to compile and visualize data from multiple -omics datasets for a given species. (author, [link to app](#))

2021 *Introduction to Data Analysis in R*. Online workshop for undergraduates in Ecuador  
Goal: Introduction to programming in R, ggplot2, and exploratory data analysis. (organizer)

## Teaching

2018-2020 **Graduate Teaching Associate**, Principles of Ecology Lab, Head TA

2017-2018 **Graduate Teaching Assistant**, Biology II, Lab instructor

2016-2018 **Official tutor**, Chegg Inc.

## Outreach & Academic services

2021 **Symposia co-organizer**, Animal Behavior Society Meeting, 2021

2021 **Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Committee**, IUSSI 2022 Organizing Body

2021 **Organizational duties**, CSHL Symposium on Biological Timekeeping

2019 **Orlando Science Center**, Co-organized two science outreach events for general public.

2019 **Annals of Entomological Society of America**, Peer-reviewer

2019 **Biology Graduate Student Association**, Core administrative member.

2019 **Beta Psi Omega Honors Society**, Invited talk on graduate school applications

2018 UCF **Arboretum Spring Fest**. Co-organized outreach for general public.

2018 UCF **STEM Day**. Co-organized outreach for middle school students in Orlando.

2016 **Taught English** in a refugee camp in Austria