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Current Address: Spear Lab, Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Panama.

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EDUCATION

Degree

- **PhD.** 2023, Yale University, New Haven, CT, USA; (jointly with New York Botanical Garden)
Dissertation Title: Diversity and Distribution of Herbaceous Plants along a Tropical Rainfall Gradient in Western Ghats, India. (Advisor: Dr. Liza S. Comita).
- **M.Phil.** 2018, Yale University, New Haven, CT, USA.
- **Master of Environmental Science** 2010, Yale University, New Haven, CT, USA;
Thesis Title: Soil characteristics related to the presence of *Heteropsis spp* (Family: Araceae) in the Caura River basin of Venezuela. (Advisor: Dr. Florencia Montagnini).
- **BSc. (Agriculture)** 2001, Kerala Agricultural University, Kerala, India.

Diploma

- **Post-Graduate Diploma in Journalism** 2006, Institute of Journalism, Press Club Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Ecology

Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Panama; www.wti.org.in

- **Postdoctoral Fellow, Spear Lab (Gamboa & BCI):** September 2023 — Present.

Responsibilities: Leading the project “Evaluating microbial-driven internal decay of living trees over time and space, and implications for tree mortality and forest dynamics”. The work includes using a non-invasive technology called sonic tomography (PICUS, IML, Wiesloch, Germany), which helps us scan live trees using sound waves, to assess the extent of internal decay (fungal), and breakage. I am responsible for data collection, sample processing, analysis and writing.

Wildlife Conservation

Wildlife Trust of India, New Delhi, India; www.wti.org.in

- **Assistant Manager and Project Lead (Philanthropy):** June 2013 — July 2016; **Project Officer (Planning):** July 2012 — June 2013.

Responsibilities: Planning, developing, monitoring, and evaluating wildlife-conservation projects; supporting field teams; writing and editing grant proposals, organizational reports and donor reports; fund-raising, servicing donors; and assisting the CEO and Board of Trustees in drafting the organization’s vision-document (*Vision 2020*) and in various project-related activities.

Project landscapes and Species: (1) Species conservation, protection, and reintroduction: large mammals of national interest (Bengal tiger, Asian elephant, Indian one-horned rhinoceros, Hoolock gibbons, etc.), other ungulates (swamp deer, markhor and wild water buffalo), birds (Sarus crane), reptiles (gharial), marine fishes (whale shark); (2) Ecosystem conservation: mangroves in Kerala, Manas landscape (India and Bhutan), elephant corridors in India; (3) Assisting forest departments in wildlife management: wild-animal rescue centers; human-animal conflict management; active rescue during natural disasters and on call; providing occupational insurance to forest guards;

training and equipping forest guards (in India and Bhutan), assisting in fighting wildlife crime in the field and various courts; reducing railroad accidents involving large mammals; etc.

Fauna & Flora International, Inc. Washington D.C., USA; www.fauna-flora.org

→ **Program Associate:** April 2011 — May 2012; **Program Assistant:** March 2011—April 2011;
Intern: November 2010—March 2011.

Responsibilities: Assisting field teams in developing wildlife conservation projects; writing and editing grant proposals and donor reports; securement and management of multinational species grants from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service; and maintaining databases.

Project landscapes and Species: Tropical Africa (Cross-River gorilla in Nigeria, chimps in Uganda and Liberia, forest elephants in Guinea), Asia (Siam crocodiles and Asian elephants in Cambodia, Sumatran tiger and Kloss's gibbon in Indonesia, Hainan gibbon in China, and Tonkin snub-nosed monkey in Vietnam), and Latin America and the Caribbean (turtles in Nicaragua, Antiguan Racer in Antigua, Maya Golden Landscape and Bladen Nature Reserve in Belize, Awacachi Corridor in Ecuador, Ometepe island in Nicaragua, and stakeholder-engagement in Brazilian Amazon).

Journalism

Audubon Magazine, National Audubon Society, New York, USA; www.audubonmagazine.org

→ **Editorial Intern:** October 2010—November 2010.

Responsibilities: Writing, fact-checking; and researching for news stories; and building data bases.

Yale Environment 360, Yale University, New Haven, CT, USA; e360.yale.edu

→ **Research Assistant:** June 2010—September 2010.

→ **Editorial Intern:** September 2008—May 2010.

Responsibilities: Fact-checking and researching for news stories; and building data bases.

Mint (Hindustan Times-The Wall Street Journal), New Delhi; www.livemint.com

→ **Copy Editor:** December 2006—May 2007.

Responsibilities: Editing and fact-checking news stories; and making newspaper pages.

The Financial Express (The Indian Express Newspapers Ltd), New Delhi, India; www.financialexpress.com

→ **Sub Editor:** December 2005—November 2006.

Responsibilities: Editing and fact-checking news stories; making newspaper pages; and reporting.

Agriculture and Sustainable Development

Thanal, a non-governmental environmental organization, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India; www.thanal.co.in

→ **Research Associate:** July 2003—June 2005.

Responsibilities: (a) Campaigner, *Save Our Rice Campaign*, aimed to protect traditional rice ecosystems; (b) Research Associate, *A study of pesticide poisoning in Kerala and its implications on agriculture and health planning and policy*, Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram; and (c) Technical support (standard-setting) for the *Organic Bazaar*, Thiruvananthapuram, a pioneer marketing initiative to promote organic farming in Kerala.

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Published

→ **Radhamoni, H. V. N.**, Queenborough, S. A., Arietta, A. Z. A., Suresh, H. S., Dattaraja, H. S., Kumar, S. S., Sukumar, R. & Comita, L. S. 2023. Local- and landscape-scale drivers of terrestrial herbaceous plant

diversity along a tropical rainfall gradient in Western Ghats, India. *Journal of Ecology*, 00, 1– 16. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1365-2745.14075>.

- Spicer, M. E., **Radhamoni, H. V. N.**, Duguid, M. C., Queenborough, S. A., & Comita, L. S. 2022. Herbaceous plant diversity in forest ecosystems: Patterns, mechanisms, and threats. *Plant Ecology*, 223(2), 117–129. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11258-021-01202-9>.

In draft

- **Radhamoni, H. V. N.**, Vleminckx, J., Umaña, M. N., Queenborough, S. A., Suresh, H. S., Dattaraja, H. S., Kumar, S. S., Sukumar, R. & Comita, L. S. (000). Patterns and drivers of β -diversity of herb versus tree communities across a tropical rainfall gradient in Western Ghats, India. (Target: *Ecology*).

RESEARCH AWARDS, GRANTS & SCHOLARSHIPS

- 2022: Yale Tropical Resources Institute (TRI) Fellowship (\$8,000), Summer research.
- 2019: Harvard University Arnold Arboretum's Ashton Award for Student Research (\$4,000).
- 2019: Yale TRI Fellowship (\$5,000) for Dissertation Research.
- 2018: Yale MacMillan International Dissertation Research Fellowship (\$15,000).
- 2018: Lewis B. Cullman Fellowship (\$5,000) for Doctoral Dissertation Research.
- 2017: Yale TRI Fellowship (\$5,000) for pre-Dissertation Research.
- 2009: Yale TRI Fellowship (\$10,000) for Master's Research.
- 2008-2009: Master's scholarship at the Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies (\$88,400).

TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIPS

- Spring 2023: Tropical Field Botany (Dr. Fabian Michelangeli, New York Botanical Garden);
- Spring 2022: Tropical Field Ecology (Drs. Liza Comita & Simon Queenborough, Yale University);
- Spring 2022: Principles of Ecology & Evolution Lab (Dr. Marta Wells, Yale University);
- Spring 2020: Principles of Ecology & Evolution Lab (Dr. Marta Wells, Yale University);
- Fall 2017: Biology of Terrestrial Arthropods Lab (Dr. Marta Wells, Yale University);
- Spring 2017: Evolution & Functional Traits Lab (Dr. Marta Wells, Yale University).

RESEARCH COLLABORATIONS

- **Visiting Researcher** (2018-2021), Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, India.
- **Visiting Researcher** (2009-2010), La Asociación Venezolana para la Conservación de Áreas Naturales (ACOANA), Caracas, Venezuela.

WORKSHOP ORGANIZING

- **Co-organizer** (2023), "Workshop on the Diversity & Dynamics of Terrestrial Herbs in Forest ecosystems" a workshop to be conducted (April 12-15), at the Oak Spring Garden Foundation, Virginia, USA (funded by the National Science Foundation); www.forestherbdiversity.net.
- **Co-organizer** (2004), "International Workshop on Rice" a workshop conducted (December 9-11), at Kumbalangi, Kerala, India (funded by Hivos International); <https://thanaltrust.org/proceedings-of-rice-workshop-kumbalangi/>.

PRESENTATIONS

Academic Presentations

- **Presenter** (2022) “Local- and landscape-scale drivers of terrestrial herbaceous plant diversity along a tropical rainfall gradient in Western Ghats, India” at the 58th Meeting of the Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation (ATBC), Cartagena, Colombia (July 14, 2022).

NGO Presentations

- **Presenter** (2004) “The Biotechnology Task Force Report - A Critique” at the Indian Workshop on Rice, organized by Thanal, Pesticide Action Network Asia Pacific, and the Self-Employed Women's Association (Kerala) in Kumbalangi, Kerala, India (December 10, 2004).

OTHER RESEARCH TRAINING

- **Participant** (2020), Winter School on Quantitative Systems Biology: Quantitative Approaches in Ecosystem Ecology (Online), Organized by International Centre for Theoretical Physics, Trieste, Italy.
- **Participant** (2018), Plant Functional Traits Summer School, Villa de Leyva, Colombia; Organized by Universidad del Rosario, Bogotá, in association with the Quebec Centre for Biodiversity Science, University of Sherbrooke, Laval University, and the French National Centre for Scientific Research.

PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

- **Languages:** English (professional); Malayalam (native); Hindi (fluent); Spanish & Tamil (elementary).
- **Statistics and GIS:** R, ArcGIS.
- **Film & Photography:** Digital video, SLR, Final Cut Pro, Adobe Photoshop, Premier Pro.
- **Journalism:** Reporting, writing and editing (English and Malayalam), Quark Xpress and Eidos.
- **Agriculture:** Organic farming; agronomy; horticulture, and animal husbandry.

FILM-MAKING

- **Camera, editing and direction** (2010), *Sustaining It*, a documentary film (Duration: 20 min) exploring the meaning of the concept of ‘sustainability’ among academics, farmers, weavers, potters, and environmentalists in India and Yale. Partially funded by the Yale School of the Environment.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Popular Media

- **Harikrishnan, V.R.** (2002-2010). News stories, features, and book reviews on environment, agriculture, and sustainable development in the *Audubon Magazine* (English, USA), *The Financial Express* (English, India), and *Kalakaumudi* (Malayalam, India).

NGO publications

- **Harikrishnan, V.R.** and Usha S. 2005. *Endosulfan—A Fact sheet and Answers to common questions*. International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN) (English and translation in Spanish).
- Usha S. and **Harikrishnan, V.R.** 2004. *Documentation of Pesticide Poisoning in Kerala and its Implications on Health and Agriculture Planning and Policy*; Kerala Research Programme on Local Level Development, Centre for Development Studies. Thiruvananthapuram.
- **Harikrishnan, V.R.** 2004. Organic Bazaar—a local marketing initiative—our experience in Thiruvananthapuram City, Kerala, India. *Proceedings of the Sixth International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements Asia Scientific Conference*. Yangpyung, South Korea. 436-440.