

Jewel Johnson

BS-MS Dual Degree in Biology

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SUMMARY

- BS-MS dual degree in Biology from the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Thiruvananthapuram
- Experience of 3 years in studying behavioural and visual ecology of social insects
- Published one peer-reviewed article
- Proficient in data wrangling and data visualization using R

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Behavioural ecology, Visual ecology, Understanding the anthropogenic effects on animals, Social behaviour

EDUCATION

Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Thiruvananthapuram

Aug. 2015 – Aug. 2020

Integrated BS-MS Dual Degree in Biological Sciences

Thiruvananthapuram, India

- **Relevant Coursework:** Ecology Evolution and Behaviour, Evolutionary Ecology, Ecological Interactions, Neurobiology, Molecular biology, Advanced Genetics and Genomics, Genome Stability, Developmental Biology, Advanced Developmental Biology and Biological Data Analysis
- **Relevant Inter-disciplinary Coursework:** Methods In Structure Determination, Instrumental Methods, Real Analysis, Complex Analysis and Linear Algebra

Undergraduate Record

Aug. 2015 – Aug. 2020

Integrated BS-MS Dual Degree in Biological Sciences

- **Bachelor of Sciences (BS) GPA:** 7.35 / 10
- **Master of Sciences (MS) GPA:** 9.15 / 10
- **Overall GPA:** 8.31 / 10

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Visual ecology of the Giant Honey Bee (*Apis dorsata*)

May 2019 - Apr. 2020

Major Degree Thesis

Guide: Prof. Hema Somanathan, IISER-TVM

- Focused on understanding how *A. dorsata* could forage during twilight period despite having day adapted eyes
- Developed a novel training paradigm to train wild *A. dorsata* colonies
- Performed classical conditioning experiments and video analysis
- Performed data analysis and data visualization using R

Morphometric analysis on Asian Bees

May 2018 - Dec. 2018

Semester Project

Guide: Johanna Yourstone, Lund University, Sweden

- Managed and stored around 100 different species of bee specimens and performed basic morphometric measurements

Role of phenylalanine in the Asian Honeybee (*Apis cerana*)

May 2018 - Dec. 2018

Major Degree Thesis

Guide: Prof. Hema Somanathan, IISER-TVM

- Focused on understanding whether *A. cerana* could associate amino acids with floral cues
- Performed classical conditioning experiments and video analysis
- Performed data analysis and data visualization using R

Visual associative learning and olfactory preferences of *Vespa tropica*

May 2017 - Jun. 2017

Internship

Guide: Prof. Hema Somanathan, IISER-TVM

- Focused on understanding the learning and behaviour of the Greater Banded Hornet (*Vespa tropica*)
- *V. tropica* is a hymenopteran predator, whose learning ability and odour preferences are previously unknown, given that they are reported as invasive species in Europe
- Gained experience in manuscript writing
- Study was published in [2021](#) and garnered media attention from [The Wire Science](#)

PUBLICATIONS

- Balamurali, G. S., Reshnuraj, R. S., [Johnson, J.](#), Kodandaramaiah, U., & Somanathan, H. (2021). [Visual associative learning and olfactory preferences of the greater banded hornet, *Vespa tropica*](#). In *Insectes Sociaux* (Vol. 68, Issues 23, pp. 217226). Springer Science and Business Media LLC.

SKILL SET

Experimental Skills

- * Experience in training and handling honeybees and hornets for behavioural experiments
- * Experience in honeybee keeping and maintaining honeybee colonies
- * Experience in using spectrophotometer (Maya 2000, Ocean Optics, USA)

Technical Skills

- * Proficient in R programming: Knows ggplot2, ggstatsplot, tidyr and dplyr packages
- * Familiar with website creation using Rmarkdown, distill and quarto packages in R. Made a [personal blog](#) using quarto
- * Intermediate knowledge in HTML5 and CSS languages
- * Have an Indian Union Driving licence (4-wheeler and 2-wheeler)
- * Wildlife Photography

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- R programming enthusiast: Made beginner's level tutorials about [ggplot2](#), [tidyr](#) and [dplyr](#) packages in R
- Created a [tutorials series](#) on "Basic statistics and how to do them in R"
- Co founder of [whatsthisdata](#), a twitter handle promoting science communication through data visualization for the public
- Co-founder of The Ecological Society of IISER-TVM, a student body for promoting environmental awareness and safe guarding the greenery in the campus
- Managed [EcoGO](#), an ambitious project for mapping the entire fauna and flora in IISER-TVM via *iNaturalist*

AWARDS & HONORS

- Achieved all India rank of **52** in Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering (GATE) 2020 in Ecology and Evolution Paper. GATE score 606 and GATE Reg no: EY20S57226002
- Achieved all India rank of **91** in Council of Scientific & Industrial Research - Junior Research Fellowship (CSIR-JRF) and National Eligibility Test (NET) Exam 2019 Fellowship (Reg no. 367970). This is the qualifying exam for PhD and lectureship in India
- Recipient of Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE) fellowship. For the duration of 5 years of study in IISER-TVM

CONFERENCES & PRESENTATIONS

Poster: Visual associative learning and odour preferences in a hymenopteran predator | Biology across kingdoms : School of Biology Symposium and Department day (September 2019) | IISER-TVM, India

Presentation: Role of phenylalanine in learning in Asian honeybee (*Apis cerana*) | Second Bangalore Meeting On Asian Bees (March 2019) | NCBS Bangalore, India

Poster: Visual associative learning in the Greater Banded Hornet (*Vespa tropica*) | Young Ecologists Talk & Interact (YETI) 2018 (January 2018) | Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, India

INTERESTS & HOBBIES

Photography, Badminton, Cycling, Trekking, Birding, Teaching, Listening to music

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