

Kevin Surya

Directed Interdisciplinary Studies, Honors College
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Curriculum Vitae

8/21/2019

Education

- 2015– B.S. Montana State University, Directed Interdisciplinary Studies
(biology, statistics, and earth sciences), GPA: 3.83
2012–15 SMA Kanisius (high school), Jakarta, Indonesia

Lab Work

- 2016– MSU Macroevolution Lab (undergraduate research assistant; PI: Chris Organ)
2015–19 DinoChicken Lab (undergraduate research assistant; PI: Dana Rashid)
2017–18 Varricchio Lab (lab member; PI: David Varricchio)

Publications

4. **Surya, K.**, and C. L. Organ. Molecular branch lengths fit trait evolution better than does time. *To be submitted to Systematic Biology*.
3. **Surya, K.**, I. M. Brenes, J. D. Gardner, N. J. Rawlence, A. J. D. Tennyson, L. W. Viñola López, C. L. Organ, and D. J. Varricchio. Does prelaying egg rotation exist in all birds? *To be submitted to Proceedings of the Royal Society B*.
2. Gardner*, J. D., **K. Surya***, and C. L. Organ. Early tetrapodomorph biogeography: Controlling for fossil record bias in macroevolutionary analyses. *In review at Comptes Rendus Palevol*. [PDF](#).
* contributed equally to the study
1. Rashid, D. J., **K. Surya**, L. M. Chiappe, N. R. Carroll, K. L. Garrett, B. Varghese, A. Bailleul, J. K. O'Connor, S. C. Chapman, and J. R. Horner. (2018). Avian tail ontogeny, pygostyle formation, and interpretation of juvenile Mesozoic specimens. *Scientific Reports* 8: 9014. [PDF](#).

Grants & Awards (\$18,341)

14. Society for the Study of Evolution (SSE)/BEACON Center for the Study of Evolution in Action Undergraduate Diversity at Evolution travel award. (2019). \$250++.
13. Montana State University (MSU) Undergraduate Scholars Program (USP) Research Grant: Which phylogenetic branch length unit better fits species' phenotypic traits: Time or genetic substitution? Advisor: Chris Organ. (2018–2019). \$1,800.
12. MSU Organization of Student Engagement Student Club Mass Funding: Dead Lizards Society (paleontology club). Advisor: David Varricchio. (2018–2019). \$1,726.
11. Sigma Xi Grants-In-Aid of Research Program: Which phylogeny better fits species' trait data: Time or molecular tree? Advisor: Chris Organ. (2017–2018). \$1,000.
10. Geological Society of America (GSA) Rocky Mountain Section Travel Grant. (2017). \$90.
9. MSU USP Research Grant: Which phylogeny better fits species' trait data: Time or molecular tree? Advisor: Chris Organ. (2017–2018). \$1,800.
8. MSU College of Letters and Science Student Research Travel Grant. (2017). \$375.
7. GSA On To The Future Travel Awards. (2017). \$500++.

6. MSU USP Travel Grant: Paleohistology technique for sub-fossilized bone. Mentor: Ellen-Thérèse Lamm. (2017). \$500.
5. Kenny Dye Memorial Scholarship. (2017–2018). \$1,900.
4. Natural History Museum of Los Angeles Student Collections Study Award: Avian pygostyle fusion. Advisor: Dana Rashid. (2017). \$1,300.
3. Montana Academy of Sciences Student Research Grant: Chicken pygostyle fusion sheds light on ankylosing spondylitis pathology. Advisor: Dana Rashid. (2017–2018). \$700.
2. Montana IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence (INBRE) Undergraduate Student Research Program: Chicken pygostyle fusion sheds light on ankylosing spondylitis pathology. Advisor: Dana Rashid. (2017). \$4,600.
1. MSU USP Research Grant: Pelvic sexual dimorphism in Palaeognathae (Aves: Neornithes) and its evolutionary relationship with relative egg size. Advisor: David Varricchio. (2016–2017). \$1,800.

Presentations

15. **Surya, K.**, and C. L. Organ. (2019) Molecular branch lengths fit trait evolution better than does time. Evolution Meeting.
14. Gardner, J. D., **K. Surya**, and C. L. Organ. (2019) Phylogeography of the tetrapod water-land transition. Montana State University (MSU) Earth Sciences Colloquium.
13. **Surya, K.**, and C. L. Organ. (2019) Does trait evolution follow time or genetic substitution? National Conference of Undergraduate Research (NCUR).
12. **Surya, K.**, D. J. Rashid, and S. C. Chapman (2019) Chicken tail vertebral fusion sheds light on a human backbone disease. Montana Academy of Sciences Annual Meeting.
11. **Surya, K.**, D. J. Rashid, L. M. Chiappe, N. R. Carroll, K. L. Garrett, B. Varghese, A. Bailleul, J. K. O'Connor, S. C. Chapman, and J. R. Horner. (2018) Bird tail growth necessitates re-interpretation of Mesozoic bird fossils. MSU Earth Sciences Colloquium.
10. **Surya, K.**, and C. L. Organ. (2018) Which phylogeny better fits species' trait data: Time or molecular tree? MSU Student Research Celebration Topical Session: *Macroevolution: The Fellowship of the Tree*.
9. **Surya, K.**, and C. L. Organ. (2018) Which phylogeny better fits species' trait data: Time or molecular tree? NCUR.
8. **Surya, K.**, I. M. Brenes, J. D. Gardner, L. W. Viñola López, C. L. Organ, and D. J. Varricchio (2017) Pelvic coevolution with egg size and shape: Implications for extinct dinosaurs. Geological Society of America Annual Meeting.
7. Rashid, D. J., **K. Surya**, S. C. Chapman, L. M. Chiappe, A. M. Bailleul, and J. R. Horner (2017) Pygostyle development and its implications for the Cretaceous long- to short-tailed avian transition. Society of Vertebrate Paleontology Annual Meeting.
6. **Surya, K.**, D. J. Rashid, and S. C. Chapman (2017) Chicken pygostyle fusion sheds light on ankylosing spondylitis pathology. Montana IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence (INBRE) Summer Research Poster Session.
5. **Surya, K.**, L. W. Viñola López, and E.-T. Lamm (2017) Paleohistology technique for sub-fossilized bone. International Symposium on Paleohistology.
4. **Surya, K.**, I. M. Brenes, L. W. Viñola López, J. D. Gardner, C. L. Organ, and D. J. Varricchio (2017) Pelvic sexual dimorphism in modern birds (Aves: Neornithes) and its evolutionary relationship with relative egg size. MSU Student Research Celebration.

3. **Surya, K.**, I. M. Brenes, L. W. Viñola López, J. D. Gardner, C. L. Organ, and D. J. Varricchio (2017) Pelvic sexual dimorphism in modern birds (Aves: Neornithes) and its evolutionary relationship with relative egg size. MSU Earth Sciences Colloquium.
2. **Surya, K.**, L. W. Viñola López, I. M. Brenes, J. D. Gardner, C. L. Organ, and D. J. Varricchio (2017) Pelvic sexual dimorphism in modern birds (Aves: Neornithes) and its evolutionary relationship with relative egg size. NCUR.
1. **Surya, K.** (2016) Assessment on the origins of avian active flight. MSU Earth Sciences Colloquium

Professional Service

Service to Profession

- Peer reviewer (n = 3; *Biology Letters* [1] and *Journal of Evolutionary Biology* [2])

Memberships

- Society for the Study of Evolution
- Society of Systematic Biologists
- Montana Academy of Sciences
- Sigma Xi (2017–2018)
- MSU Dead Lizards Society (paleontology club; co-president 2017–2018)
- Geological Society of America (2016–2018)
- Society of Vertebrate Paleontology (2015–2018)

Volunteer & Public Outreach

- 2018 Montana Science Olympiad
- 2018, 19 MSU Family Science Day
- 2018 Morning Star Elementary School STEM Expo
- 2017 Society of Vertebrate Paleontology volunteer at the Geological Society of America Annual Meeting
- 2017 Museum of the Rockies (MOR) Scout's Day
- 2016 MOR volunteer in *MSU Catapalooza*
- 2016 MOR volunteer in *Adventures in the Lost World*
- 2016–17 MOR dinosaur educational cart and fossil preparation volunteer (212.5 hours)
- 2015–16 Volunteer fossil preparator for L. J. Krumenacker, Ph.D. candidate

Conferences Attended

- 2019 Evolution Meeting
- 2017 Geological Society of America Annual Meeting
- 2017 International Symposium on Paleohistology
- 2016, 17 Society of Vertebrate Paleontology Annual Meeting

Paleontological Field Experience

- 2018 Excavation, Foremost Formation, north of Rudyard, MT, USA (10 days)
- 2016 Excavation and prospection, Two Medicine Formation, west of Choteau, MT, USA (31 days)

Skills

- Parametric, nonparametric, and multivariate statistics (R and SAS)
- Phylogenetic comparative methods (BayesTraits, R, and evolution)
- Phylogenetic inference (NCBI, MAFFT, PAGAN, TrimAl, PhyML, RAxML, SDM, PhyD*, Mesquite, MrBayes, and BEAST)
- Programming (R, Python, and bash)
- Histochemistry (picrosirius red, alcian blue, modified tetrachrome, von Kossa, Giemsa, hematoxylin, eosin, and toluidine blue stainings)
- Immunohistochemistry (tuj1, TUNEL assay, and sambucus nigra stainings)
- Light and fluorescence microscopy
- Bone demineralization with a cation exchange resin
- Dissection (embryonic and post-hatching birds)
- Paleontology field work (excavation and prospection)
- Paleontology techniques (fossil preparation, molding, and casting)
- Paleohistology techniques
- Mathematics (Mathematica)

References

Undergraduate Advisors

1. **Chris L. Organ**
Senior Bioinformatician, NIH, Montana INBRE
Department of Earth Sciences
Montana State University, Bozeman, MT 59717
organ@montana.edu | 406 589 6462
2. **Dana J. Rashid**
Department of Cell Biology and Neuroscience
Montana State University, Bozeman, MT 59717
danarashid5@gmail.com | 406 994 6525
3. **David J. Varricchio**
Department of Earth Sciences
Montana State University, Bozeman, MT 59717
djv@montana.edu | 406 994 6907
4. **John J. Borkowski**
Department of Mathematical Sciences
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