



Nutan Karnik

Mitrakida Foundation for Insect Research and Conservation,
Pune, Maharashtra, India
Email: nutan.karnik@gmail.com,
mitrakidafoundation@gmail.com
Phone: +91 – 9741088445

I am an entomologist, passionate about studying and conserving insects. As a founder and director of Mitrakida Foundation for Insect Research and Conservation, I am continuously working towards spreading awareness about the ecological importance of insects through consultation and insect popularization activities.

Education

- M.Sc. (Genetics), Department of Zoology, University of Pune, India. 2000
- B.Sc (Zoology), S. P. College, University of Pune, India. 1998

Employment

- Founder and Director, Mitrakida Foundation for Insect Research and Conservation (December 2023-Present)
- Scientific consultant at Mitrakida Biosolutions Pvt Ltd, Pune, India (September 2022-November 2023)
- Project assistant at Center for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, India (December 2000-September 2004 and January 2008-July 2022)
- Assistant at Gene Diagnostics Laboratory, Pune, India. (May 2000-December 2000)

Research and teaching under the guidance of Professor Raghavendra Gadagkar at the Social Insects Laboratory, Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore, India.

Expertise in:

- Collection and maintenance of wasp and ant colonies
- Design and execution of laboratory and field experiments.
- Behavioral observations of insects
- Hands on biostatistics

Other contributions to academia

- Conducted practical sessions on ants in DST sponsored workshop on "Methods in Behavioral Ecology" (2004).
- Teaching assistant to Prof Gadagkar for ant practical in "Introduction to Organismal and Molecular Biology" course for undergraduate students at IISc, Bangalore (2012-2017), and at Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) in Pune and Mohali.
- Guided 'ant walks' for students to identify ants in their natural habitats.
- Guide to many summer research students within the laboratory.
- Team member of the conference "Being Social" at IISc (June 2013)
- Team member in organizing the course "Production of Knowledge" at the Centre for Contemporary Studies at IISc, under the able guidance of Prof Gadagkar

Publication

Karnik,N., Channaveerappa,H., Ranganath,H.A. and Gadagkar,R. (2010). Karyotype instability in the ponerine ant genus *Diacamma*. *Journal of Genetics*, 89 (2), 173-182

Scientific consultant to Dr Rahul Marathe, Mitrakida Biosolutions Pvt Ltd, Pune, India

- In providing solutions to insect-related issues (household and agricultural pests) from individual to institutional levels and implementing biocontrol measures
- In-vivo laboratory testing for agricultural pests
- Conducting insect surveys at the airbases for bird-hit management
- Insect investigation and surveys for pharmaceutical, garment and automobile industries.
- Designing butterfly gardens
- Setting up beneficial insect cultures

Insect popularization talks to spread awareness about insects, especially ants.

Ants:

- 1) Naturewalk Charitable Trust, Pune, India. 21st June 2020
- 2) GlyphsCCE Channel, Pune, India. 27 September 2020
- 3) Jividha Trust, Pune, India. 5 March 2021
- 4) Environmental Forum of India, Baramati, India. 6 March 2021
- 5) Nisargarang kids camp, Pune, India. 13 May 2021
- 6) Damle Safaris Facebook live, Pune, India. 23 May 2021
- 7) Online kids camp-Damle Safaris, Pune, India. 27 May 2021
- 8) Dr Milind Watve's group meeting, Pune, India. 11 August 2021

- 9) Swayam talks, Mumbai, India. 16 January 2022
- 10) Setu advertising, Pune, India. 17 August 2022
- 11) Jividha Trust, Pune, India. 24 August 2022
- 12) Naturewalk charitable trust, Pune, India. 1 October 2022
- 13) Dr Vasantdada Patil Madhyamik vidya Niketan school, Pune, India, organized by Rotary club of Pune. 30 November 2022
- 14) Sevasadan English medium school, Rotary club of Pune (south), India. 2 January 2023
- 15) IISER-Pune science activity center, Pune, India. 18 June 2023
- 16) Sane guruji vidyamandir, Jaitapur, India. 11 July 2023
- 17) Vision school, Pune, India. 23 August 2023
- 18) Tukaram Pundalik Shetye Junior College, Lanja, India. 29 August 2023
- 19) Nutan Vidyamandir, Oni, India. 29 August 2023
- 20) Maharashtra Times newspaper Gold podcast, Pune, India. 6 October 2023
- 21) Van Bhavan Katta, Forest department-Pune, India. 6 November 2023
- 22) Philipsian's Coffee Katta, Pune, India. 19 November 2023
- 23) ASP Science College, Devrukh, India. 11 February 2024
- 24) Abhyas Mandal, Pune, India. 25 April 2024
- 25) Rotary club of Pune Heritage, Pune, India. 3 May 2024

Insects:

- 1) Naturewalk Charitable Trust and Jividha Trust, Pune, India. 26 May 2021
- 2) ISOLA Maharashtra chapter, Pune, India. 25 November 2023
- 3) S.K.S.V. Arts, Commerce and Science College, Lanja, India. 29 January 2024
- 4) ASP Science College, Devrukh, India. 29 January 2024 (2 talks)

“Insectales” – Public talks on insects, Pune, India

‘Insect Tales’ is a talk series specially designed for creating awareness about the importance of insects in nature. These well-researched and scientifically sound lectures are created to introduce common people to the wonderful world of these tiny creatures.

- 1) ‘Beetles’, Indradhanushya environment and citizenship center, 14 September 2023
- 2) ‘Grasshoppers and Crickets’, Indradhanushya environment and citizenship center, 26 October 2023
- 3) ‘Beyond the Buzz: The Lesser-known Insects’, Sevasadan English medium school, 25 November 2023
- 4) ‘The Busy World of Flies’, Sevasadan English medium school, 23 December 2023
- 5) ‘The Sting Operation: Ants, Bees and Wasps’, Sevasadan English medium school, 20 January 2024

- 6) 'Chirps, Saps and Hops: From Cicadas to planthoppers', Sevasadan English medium school, 24 February 2024
- 7) 'The Lice Business', Sevasadan English medium school, 23 March 2024
- 8) 'Ephemeral Elegance: Mayflies and More', Sevasadan English medium school, 20 April 2024

Fireflies Awareness lectures:

- 1) 'Celebrating the Science and Wonder of Fireflies', Pabe ghat, Pune, India. 11 June 2023

National Moth Week lectures and moth awareness camps:

- 1) 'Unfolding the Moth World', Indradhanushya environment and citizenship center, Pune, India. 27 July 2023
- 2) 'पतंगांच्या विश्वात' (Into the World of Moths), Savali agro-tourism, Oni, India. 29 August 2023
- 3) 'Unfolding the Moth World', Gappangan agro-tourism center, Pune, India. 2-3 September 2023

Wildlife week lectures:

- 1) 'Insects – Unexplored Gems of Biodiversity', Indradhanushya environment and citizenship center, Pune, India. 5 October 2023

Guide training lectures for the Maharashtra Forest Department staff:

- 1) 'World of Insects', conducted at Pench forest, Maharashtra during 23rd-30th July 2022.

Scientific course on insects for school children:

- 1) Six-month introductory course – 'World of Insects' conducted at Millennium National School, Pune, India. Age group - 6th – 10th standard students. September 2022-March 2023
- 2) Three-months online introductory course – 'Insect Insights' for 6th standard student. December 2023-February 2024

Insect walks:

- 1) Conducted at Empress Botanical Garden, Pune, India. Organized by Rupa Rahul Bajaj Centre for Environment and Art, Pune, India. 16 July 2023
- 2) Conducted at ARAI hill, Pune, India. Organized by Mid Earth Wildlife & Adventure Holidays, Mumbai, India. 30 July 2023

Insect Workshops for students:

- 1) 'Decoding the Bugs' A two-day workshop to explore the world of insects, Pune, India.
Batch 1 - 18-19 April 2023
Batch 2 - 16-17 May 2023
Batch 3 - 10-11 June 2023

Popular articles in newspapers and magazines

I have written several articles on insects in local leading marathi newspapers like Sakal, Maharashtra Times, Lokmat. I have also written articles for school children in science and nature magazines like Nisargaranga, Chhatraprabodhan, Vision School and Rotary Club magazine. Details below.

- 1) Rotary Southern Star Magazine, December 2021- मुंग्यांचे अद्भुत विश्व
- 2) Lokmat new age, 9 April 2023 – 'इवल्याशा मुंग्या लई भारी'
- 3) Maharashtra Times, 23 July 2023 – 'पतंगायन'
- 4) Maharashtra Times, 4 October 2023 – 'मुंग्यांना मिळायला हवे वन्यजीवांचे स्टेटस'
- 5) Maharashtra Times, 9 October 2023 – 'भुगेऱ्यांचे मनोरंजक विश्व'
- 6) Chhatraprabodhan English Diwali issue, 2023 - 'Tiny Heroes, Big Hearts...The Ants Saved Us All.'
- 7) Maharashtra Times, 24 January 2024 – 'किड्यांचे अपरिचित विश्व पूर्वार्ध'
- 8) Maharashtra Times, 25 January 2024 – 'टोळधाडीचा आश्चर्यकारक प्रवास उत्तरार्ध'
- 9) Maharashtra Times, 12 February 2024 – 'पंख नसलेले कीटक पूर्वार्ध'
- 10) Lokmat, 20 February 2024 – 'डासांच्या मनोऱ्यांचे रहस्य नेमके काय आहे?'
- 11) Maharashtra Times, 6 March 2024 - 'कीटकांचे अनोखे विश्व उत्तरार्ध'
- 12) Maharashtra Times, 21 March 2024 - 'गुणगुणान्या गुणकारी माशा'
- 13) Vision school Kavyanjali Magazine, 2023-2024 – 'Harvester ants and seed dispersal'