



## **Nutan Karnik**

Mitrakida Foundation for Insect Research and Conservation

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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)
- Independent Scientific consultant (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

#### **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

### **Independent Scientific Consultant, Pune, India**

- For entomological issues.
- Insect investigation and surveys for pharmaceutical, garment, automobile, spice industries and for farms and gardens.
- Designing butterfly gardens

### **Publications**

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

### **Awards**

- 1) 'Green Warrior 2024', from Maharashtra Vruksha Samvardhini, Pune, India.
- 2) 'Vasundhara Mitra Nisargarakshak Puraskar 2024', from Vasundhara Mitra Samelan, Ratnagiri, India.
- 3) 'Dr Kalpana Chawla Smruti Yashaswini Award 2024' from Tulajabhawani Kshishan Mandal, Islampur, India

**Insect popularization talks/podcasts 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
- 26) University Women's Association, Pune, India. 20 September 2024
- 27) Vidyarthi Utkarsh Mandal, Mumbai, India. 26 November 2024
- 28) Shri Wakeshwar Senior Citizens Forum, Pune, India. 08 December 2024
- 29) Vaze classes webinar, Mumbai, India. 26 January 2025
- 30) YouTube podcast- hosted by Jungle Echoes, Pune, India. 5 February 2025
- 31) YouTube podcast-'Chakoribaheril charchoughi' hosted by Medha Jambotkar, Pune, India. 9 February 2025
- 32) Tulajabhawani Kshishan Mandal, Islampur, India. 8 March 2025
- 33) Aakashvani, Sad Sanwad. Pune, India. 3 April 2025
- 34) Bedekar Sadan, Mumbai, India. 28 April 2025
- 35) YouTube podcast – Shabdayatri hosted by Neha Abhijit, Pune, India. 3 August 2025
- 36) Akshargandh, Ek Janiw-Jagruti webinar, Mumbai, India. 30 July 2025
- 37) Phatak High School, Ratnagiri, India. 14 January 2026
- 38) Sevasadan Marathi School, Pune, India. 25 April 2026

### **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)

- 5) Nisargsevak camp for children, Pune, India. 4 June 2024
- 6) Jeevidha in collaboration with Biodiversity Department, Garware College Pune, India. 25 September 2024
- 7) Jungle Belles Webinar, Pune, India. 28 September 2024
- 8) Kisan-student connect webinar by IBB Dept, University of Pune, 4 December 2025
- 9) Shirke High School, Ratnagiri, India. 14 January 2026
- 10) The Big Green Fest Paryavaran Mahotsav, Kalagram, Pune, India. 17 January 2026
- 11) Panvel Prathamik Shala, Ratnagiri, India. 09 February 2026
- 12) Z.P. School, Panval, Horembewadi, Ratnagiri, India. 09 February 2026
- 13) Sarvankash School, Ratnagiri, India. 10 February 2026
- 14) Gurukul-Patwardhan High School, Ratnagiri, India. 10 February 2026
- 15) Mango Lounge, Pune, India. 15 March 2026

### **“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
- 9) ‘Fireflies: The Twilight Saga’, Sevasadan English medium school, 25 May 2024
- 10) ‘Flight and Finesse: Predatory Insects in the Air’, Sevasadan English medium school, 22 June 2024
- 11) ‘Predators and Pretenders: Mantis and Phasmids’, Sevasadan English medium school, 13 July 2024
- 12) ‘Rainbow on Wings: Butterflies’, Sevasadan English medium school, 10 August 2024

- 13) 'The Termite Truth', Sevasadan English medium school, 23 November 2024
- 14) 'Ant Tales', Sevasadan English medium school, 21 December 2024
- 15) 'Pest Logic: Why Bugs Love Your Home?', Sevasadan English medium school, 4 January 2025
- 16) 'Pest Logic: Why Bugs Love Your garden', Sevasadan English medium school, 1 February 2025
- 17) 'Master Architects of the Insect World', Sevasadan English medium school, 1 March 2025
- 18) 'Taxonomy with a Twist: The Stories Behind Insect Names', Sevasadan English medium school, 5 April 2025
- 19) 'Extreme Habitats, Extraordinary Insects', Sevasadan English medium school, 3 May 2025
- 20) 'Lanterns of the Wild: The Secret Lives of Fireflies', Sevasadan English medium school, 31 May 2025
- 21) 'Landmark experiments on insects', Sevasadan English medium school, 7 June 2025
- 22) 'Moths: The nocturnal marvels', Sevasadan English medium school, 5 July 2025
- 23) 'Honey, Let's talk bees', Sevasadan English medium school, 2 August 2025
- 24) 'Arthropoda: Life beyond six legs', Sevasadan English medium school, 13 September 2025
- 25) 'Bonds beyond bugs', Sevasadan English medium school, 4 October 2025
- 26) Insect documentary screening – 'Insectales' produced by Mitrakida Foundation. Sevasadan English medium school, Pune, India. 1 November 2025

#### **Fireflies Awareness lectures:**

- 1) 'Celebrating the Science and Wonder of Fireflies', Pabe ghat, Pune, India. 11 June 2023
- 2) 'Fireflies: The Twilight Saga', Sevasadan English medium school, 25 May 2024
- 3) 'Lanterns of the Wild: The Secret Lives of Fireflies', Sevasadan English medium school, 31 May 2025

#### **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), Moth camp at Savaliagro-tourism, Oni, India. 29 August 2023
- 3) 'Unfolding the Moth World', Moth camp at Gappangan agro-tourism center, Pune, India. 2-3 September 2023
- 4) 'Unfolding the Moth World', Sevasadan English medium school, 20 July 2024
- 5) 'Unfolding the Moth World', Dept of Zoology, Gogate Jogalekar College, Ratnagiri, India. 25 July 2024

- 6) 'Unfolding the Moth World', Moth camp at Remand Home, Ratnagiri, India. Organized by Sky and Earth, India. 25 July 2024
- 7) 'Unfolding the Moth World', Moth camp at Vidnyanashram, Pabal, India. 21 July 2025

#### **Wildlife Week lectures:**

- 1) 'Insects – Unexplored Gems of Biodiversity', Indradhanushya environment and citizenship center, Pune, India. 5 October 2023
- 2) Insect documentary screening – 'Jave Keetakanchyaa Desha', produced by Mitrakida Foundation. Sevasadan English medium school, Pune, India. 5 October 2024
- 3) Insect documentary screening – 'Jave Keetakanchyaa Desha', produced by Mitrakida Foundation. Ferguson College, Pune, India. 8 October 2024

#### **For the Maharashtra Forest Department:**

- 1) 'World of Insects', Guide training lectures conducted at Pench forest, Maharashtra during 23<sup>rd</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> July 2022.
- 2) Article in Maharashtra Ranger Diwali issue, October 2025 – 'कीटकांचा निसर्गसोहळा'
- 3) Book chapter on insects in the field book for the guides, November 2025 - 'ओळख खुणांची, समज निसर्गाची'

#### **Training Programs for Naturalists:**

- 1) Lectures on 'Insects of the Sahyadri' conducted at the Green Trail Naturalists Training program by Shillim Institute, Maval, Pune, India. 22-23 November 2025

#### **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-month online introductory course – 'Insect Insights' for 6th standard student. December 2023-February 2024

#### **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

### **Documentaries produced by Mitrakida Foundation:**

- 1) 'Jave Keetakanchyaa Desha/Let's go to the land of insects' – October 2024
- 2) 'Insectales' – October 2025

### **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
- 3) Conducted at Mhatoba hill, Pune, India. Organized by Mitrakida Foundation, Pune, India. 30 June 2024
- 4) Conducted at Empress Botanical Garden, Pune, India. Organized by Rupa Rahul Bajaj Centre for Environment and Art, Pune, India. 29 September 2024
- 5) Conducted at Bhamburda Vanvihar, Pune, India. Organised by Institute of Bioinformatics and Biotechnology, Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune, India. 20 October 2024
- 6) Conducted at Bhamburda Vanvihar, Pune, India. Organised by Koham Learning Centre, Pune, India. 11 December 2024
- 7) Conducted at Bhamburda Vanvihar, Pune, India. Organised by Institute of Bioinformatics and Biotechnology, Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune, India. 12 October 2025
- 8) Conducted at Mhatoba hills, Pune, India. Organized by Mitrakida Foundation. 18 January 2026

### **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 Marathi Vigyan Parishad Patrika, 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 – 'भुंगेच्यांचे 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 - ‘गुणगुणणाऱ्या गुणकारी माशा’
- 13) Vision school Kavyanjali Magazine, 2023-2024 – ‘Harvester ants and seed dispersal’
- 14) Maharashtra Times, 29 May 2024 – ‘डंख मारणारे कीटक’
- 15) Maharashtra Times, 24 June 2024 - ‘काजवे एक जैविक किमया’
- 16) Maharashtra Times, 24 June 2024 – ‘विश्व पतंगांचे’
- 17) Maharashtra Times, 25 July 2024 – ‘कीटक डंखाचे वेदनामापन’
- 18) Nisargarang Nature Magazine for school children –‘इवल्याश्या मुंगीचे अफाट विश्व’
- 19) Marathi Vidnyan Parishad Patrika, July 2024 - ‘कीटकांमधील संदेशवहन’
- 20) Nisargsevak Magazine, July 2024 - ‘पावसाळ्यातील कीटक’
- 21) Nisargarang Nature Magazine for school children, 16 August 2024 – ‘कोळी-निसर्गाची एक अद्भुत किमया’
- 22) Ekta Magazine , October 2024 Diwali issue, ‘मुंगीपुराण’
- 23) Vidyarthi Utkarsh Mandal Magazine, December 2024, ‘जावे मुंग्यांच्या जगात’
- 24) Maharashtra Times, 15 January 2025 – ‘घुसखोर मुंग्यांचा धोका’
- 25) Maharashtra Times, 12 May 2025 – ‘मुंग्यांची तस्करी’
- 26) Maharashtra Times, 23 July 2025 – ‘Lights, Camera, Moths!’
- 27) Maharashtra Times, 24 July 2025 – ‘करू पतंगांचा अभ्यास’
- 28) Apla Paryawaran Magazine, September 2025 – Guardians of the ground: saving our ants’
- 29) Vipulashree Magazine, Oct-Nov 2025 - Interview about the work of Mitrakida Foundation for Insect Research and Conservation.
- 30) Marathi Vidnyan Parishad Patrika, November 2025 - ‘कोळ्याचे जाळे’
- 31) Anantarang Diwali issue 2025, ‘निसर्गरक्षक मुंग्या’
- 32) Nisargarang Nature magazine for children, ‘किड्यांची कमाल दुनिया’
- 33) Nirmal Ranwara magazine for children, January 2026 - ओळख कीटकांची-१, गंमतीशीर नाकतोडे
- 34) Nirmal Ranwara magazine for children, February 2026 - ओळख कीटकांची-२, फुलपाखरांचे रंगीबेरंगी जग
- 35) Nirmal Ranwara magazine for children, March 2026 - ओळख कीटकांची-३, पतंग आणि दिव्याची गंमत
- 36) Nirmal Ranwara magazine for children, April 2026 - ओळख कीटकांची-४, मुंगी आणि तिची अद्भुत दुनिया
- 37) Nirmal Ranwara magazine for children, May 2026 - ओळख कीटकांची-५, कामसू मधमाशा