VISHNU DAS E. H.

ZOOLOGIST | ARACHNOLOGIST | SPIDER TAXONOMY & BIODIVERSITY

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PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Arachnologist and zoologist holding a PhD in Zoology, with research experience in spider taxonomy, systematics, biodiversity assessment, and mangrove ecology. Skilled in field surveys, morphological and genitalic character analysis, species identification, taxonomic revision, and R-based analysis of spider communities. Brings one year of teaching experience at undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Spider taxonomy and systematics; arachnid diversity and species discovery; biogeography; community ecology; habitat–species relationships; and conservation of biodiversity in mangrove and other threatened ecosystems.

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-reviewed journal articles

1. **Vishnudas, E. H.**, Anis, K. V., & Sudhikumar, A. V. (2022). First description of the male comb-footed spider, *Chrysso urbasae* (Tikader, Theridiidae), with redescription of the female. *Serket*, 19(1).
2. Maddison, W. P., Ruiz, G. R., Ng, P. Y., **Vishnudas, E. H.**, & Sudhikumar, A. V. (2022). *Kelawakaju* gen. nov., a new Asian lineage of marpissine jumping spiders (Araneae, Salticidae, Marpissina). *ZooKeys*, 1130, 79.
3. **Vishnudas, E. H.**, & Sudhikumar, A. V. (2022). A new synonymy in the spider genus *Prosoponoides* Millidge & Russell-Smith, 1992 (Linyphiidae: Linyphiinae). *Arachnology*, 19(2), 580–581.
4. **Vishnudas, E. H.**, & Sudhikumar, A. V. (2022). First report of *Prosoponoides* Millidge & Russell-Smith, 1992 (Araneae: Linyphiidae) from India, with description of a new species from the Western Ghats. *Arachnology*, 19(1), 63–65.
5. **Vishnudas, E. H.**, & Sudhikumar, A. V. (2021). First report of the small daddy long-leg spider *Micropholcus fauroti* (Simon, 1887) (Araneae: Pholcidae) female from India, with redescription of the male. *Serket*, 18, 59–63.
6. **Vishnudas, E. H.**, Ajitha, V. S., & Sudhikumar, A. V. (2021). Diversity of spiders in Poovar mangrove ecosystem, Kerala, India. *Serket*, 18, 53–58.
7. Ajitha, T., Kavitha, K. J., Raj, K. S., Bhavya, L. R., **Das, E. H.**, & Evans, D. A. (2017). Secondary metabolites of *Musa* cultivars confer resistance against infestation by stem weevil, *Odoiporus longicollis* (Olivier) (Coleoptera: Dryophthoridae). *Entomon*, 42(4), 301–310.

EDUCATION

PhD in Zoology — **2025**
University of Calicut, India
Research focus: spider taxonomy, biodiversity assessment, and mangrove ecology | Advisor: Dr. A. V. Sudhikumar

MPhil in Zoology (Entomology) — **2019**
University of Kerala
95.83% - Distinction | Advisor: Dr. V. S. Ajitha

MSc in Zoology (Entomology) — **2017**
University of Kerala
86.60% - Distinction

BSc in Zoology (Human Genetics) — **2015**
University of Calicut
80.75% - Distinction

RESEARCH AND TECHNICAL EXPERTISE

- **Taxonomy and morphology:** species identification, taxonomic revision, species delimitation, genitalic analysis, light and stereomicroscopy, diagnostic imaging and measurement.
- **Biodiversity and ecology:** field surveys, species inventories, diversity indices, guild composition, habitat associations, and spatial/seasonal variation in spider assemblages.
- **Quantitative analysis:** R programming, data visualization, similarity measures, multivariate ordination, and indicator-species analysis; experience with vegan, iNEXT, indicspecies, ecodist, mvabund, and phyloregion.
- **Research communication:** scientific writing, taxonomic documentation, literature synthesis, research presentations, and reproducible analytical workflows.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Assistant Professor (Guest / Ad hoc) | Department of Zoology

Sree Narayana College, Nattika, Thrissur, Kerala, India

One year of teaching experience at undergraduate and postgraduate levels; delivered lectures, conducted practical classes, supported student learning, and assessed academic performance.

Data Compiler | UNDP Flood Assessment (2018)

Kerala State Biodiversity Board

Compiled biodiversity-related data in support of flood assessment activities.

INVITED TALK

Invited Resource Person, “The Realm of Spiders” - talk for undergraduate and postgraduate Life Sciences students at MES Keveeyem College, Valanchery, Kerala. Covered spider diversity, taxonomy, biology, and ecological significance.

AWARDS AND QUALIFICATIONS

- **CSIR-UGC NET:** Qualified, June 2019.
- **Best Poster Presentation:** International Seminar on Life Science for Sustainable Development: Issues and Challenges, University College, Thiruvananthapuram (October 2019).
- **Best Paper Presentation:** National Seminar on Biodiversity Conservation, University of Kerala, Kariavattom (November 2019).
- **Best Paper Presentation:** National Seminar on Flood Biodiversity and Disaster Management, MES Keveeyem College, Valanchery (January 2020).

SELECTED TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- **Faculty Development Programme (2026):** Emerging Trends in Bioinformatics for Life Science, Department of Botany and Computational Biology, St. Aloysius College.
- **Taxonomy workshop (March 2019):** Workshop on Taxonomy of Mantids, Department of Zoology, University of Kerala, Kariavattom.
- **Field survey (September 2019):** Second Odonata Survey, Silent Valley National Park, Kerala.
- **Selected seminars (2019–2020):** National Seminar on Biodiversity Issues and Challenges (October 2019); International Seminar on Life Science for Sustainable Development (October 2019); National Seminar on Biodiversity Conservation (November 2019); and National Seminar on Flood Biodiversity and Disaster Management (January 2020).

ACADEMIC REFEREES

Dr. Ayana Gayathri
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