

**(Ms) PARVATHY VENUGOPAL, PhD**

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<https://www.harrison-institute.org/staff-research-fellows>

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I am a conservation biologist by conviction and biodiversity scientist by training. I have a BSc and MSc in Forestry but specialising in wildlife studies, and a PhD in bat diversity and evolutionary history. I have a passionate interest in communicating science to the public, whether in Europe, Asia or worldwide. I carry out multidisciplinary research that is both field and laboratory based. Such studies include aspects of traditional taxonomy, molecular techniques, geometric morphometrics, and bioacoustics. I incorporate species distribution modelling techniques to understand and predict range shifts in species. Trained in India and the UK, I have a broad understanding of different cultures and traditions, which makes me an ideal interface in delivering national and international projects, both science and conservation-based, in a range of environments, countries and social backgrounds.

**Current and Previous positions**

2020- : Honorary Research Fellow, Harrison Institute, Kent, UK  
2014-2020: Commonwealth Scholar, University of Bristol, UK

**Education**

2014-2020: **PhD** (Biological Sciences), University of Bristol, UK, "An integrated approach to the taxonomy of hipposiderid bats in South Asia" (funded by UK Commonwealth Scholarship Commission)  
2011-2013: **MSc** (Forestry) with specialization in Wildlife Sciences, 1<sup>st</sup> Class Distinction, Kerala Agricultural University, India, "DNA barcoding of the insectivorous bats of Parambikulam Tiger Reserve, Western Ghats, Kerala" (Funded by Kerala Agricultural University, India)  
2007-2011: **BSc (Hon)** Forestry, 1<sup>st</sup> Class Distinction, Kerala Agricultural University, India

**Academic Awards**

2013 – **University Second Rank** for MSc Forestry, Kerala Agricultural University, India  
2012 – **Best Masters Seminar Award**, Kerala Agricultural University, India  
2011 – **Sardar Patel Award** for University first rank in BSc Forestry, Kerala Agricultural University, India  
2004-2006 – **National Talent Search Scholarship**, Government of India for undertaking secondary school studies

**Research, travel Grants and Fellowships**

2017 – **Travel Grant**, Alumni Foundation, University of Bristol (£450)  
2017 – **Student Travel Grant**, CSC (£600)  
2015 – **CSC Research Support Grant** for three years (£8,980)  
2014 – **Commonwealth Scholarship** for PhD (~£100,000)

### Research works and Publications

Arjun, R., Abha, K.M., **Parvathy, V.**, and Nameer, P.O. 2015. *Spider feeding on a vespertilionid bat from Kerala, South India*. Current Science, 109(7):1245-1246

**A two-year research in postgraduate programme** in the academic year 2011-2013: *DNA barcoding of the insectivorous bats of Parambikulam Tiger Reserve, Western Ghats, Kerala*.

Research guide: Dr. P.O. Nameer, Professor & Head, Department of Wildlife Sciences, College of Forestry, Kerala Agricultural University

**A six-month research in undergraduate programme** in the academic year 2010-2011: *In vitro propagation of Santalum album (Sandal) through somatic embryogenesis*.

Research guide: Dr. A.V Santhosh Kumar, Professor & Head, Department of Tree Physiology and Breeding, College of Forestry, Kerala Agricultural University

### Selected Conference Presentations

**Venugopal, P.**, Bates, P.J.J., Yapa, W., Kusuminda, T., Menchaca, A., Thabah, A., Ruedi, M. & Jones, G. Cryptic Story of an endemic *Hipposideros* from Indian Subcontinent. **18<sup>th</sup> International Bat Research Conference**, Phuket, Thailand, 28 July-1 August 2019 (Oral presentation)

**Venugopal, P.**, Bates, P.J.J. & Jones, G. A taxonomic re-evaluation of *Hipposideros lankadiva* Keelart, 1850 (Chiroptera: Hipposideridae) based on morphological and bioacoustic appraisal. **IV British Bats Research Symposium**, University of Bristol, 28 March 2018 (Oral presentation)

**Venugopal, P.**, Bates, P.J.J. & Jones, G. Variation in morphological and cranial characters in *Hipposideros pomona* Andersen, 1918 (Chiroptera: Hipposideridae) and its taxonomic implications. **14<sup>th</sup> European Bat Research Symposium**, Donostia, The Basque Country, 1-5 August 2017 (Poster presentation)

**Venugopal, P** & Nameer, P.O. Can DNA barcoding unravel the taxonomic ambiguity in insectivorous bats in Western Ghats? **Student Conference on Conservation Science in Cambridge**, UK, 19-21 March 2013 (Poster presentation)

### Specialist Training

2019 – Species Distribution Modelling in MaxEnt, University of Stirling, UK & University of Bristol, UK

2016 – International Bat Taxonomy Workshop, Osmania University, Hyderabad, India (5 days)

2015 – Geographic Information Systems & Environmental Geomatics Course, University of Stirling, UK (3 days)

2015 – Species Distribution Modelling in MaxEnt Certified Online Course, Udemy

2015 – Advanced Statistics Course, University of Bristol, UK (1 week)

2013 – Molecular Phylogeny Workshop, Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, India (5 days)

2011 – Field training in Small mammals' International workshop, College of Forestry, India (5 days)

### Research Skills

**Fieldwork** – wildlife surveying and sampling, including capturing and recording (camera traps, mist nets, harp traps, Sherman traps, bat detectors such as Pettersson Ultrasound Detector D980, BatSound® Touch software and AudioMoth)

**Laboratory techniques** – including bat skull and baculum extraction, DNA extractions, quality and quantity control, PCR, sequencing

**Acoustic analysis** – extensive experience in using softwares BatSound, Wildlife Acoustics Kaleidoscope Pro, and Raven Lite

**Molecular data analysis** – sequence cleaning and editing (Geneious, BioEdit etc), constructing phylogenetic trees (MEGA, Mr Bayes, BEAST), Haplotype network analysis (DNAsp, PopArt)

**Statistical, GIS and Species Distribution Modelling (SDM) techniques** – extensive GIS (ArcGIS, R) and SDM (Maxent), advanced statistical analysis (SPSS, PAST, R)

**Project management** – obtaining funding; coordinating fieldwork, managing stakeholders and collaborators; managing budgets; employing, training, and managing research assistants and volunteers

**Languages** – Malayalam (native), English (fluent), Hindi (basic), Spanish (basic)

### Teaching Experience

2020 – Course instructor (molecular data analysis & R), Online

Oct 2019-Feb 2020 – Postgraduate tutor, University of Bristol, UK

2018-2018 – Student Mentor, PG widening Participation Scheme, University of Bristol, UK

2017 – Demonstrator (bat skull extraction), University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

2015-2020 – Demonstrator/Teaching Assistant, University of Bristol, UK

2015 – Contributor, Manual on Ornithology, College of Forestry, India

2014 – Teaching assistant, Department of Wildlife Sciences, College of Forestry, India

### Selected Public Engagement

**Public lectures** – to conservation practitioners, volunteers, wildlife groups and students (including Bat Groups in the UK, Schools in India)

**Press release contributor** – “South Asian scientists and conservationists bust myths about bats and COVID-19”

**Discussion panelist** – “Putting the ‘Zoo’ in zoonotic – what does the corona virus pandemic reveal about ecosystem health?” organised by Café Oikos (science), Bengaluru, India (Online)

### Referees

Prof. Gareth Jones (PhD Supervisor)  
Professor of Biological Sciences  
School of Biological Sciences  
University of Bristol  
United Kingdom  
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Dr. Paul Bates (Mentor)  
Director  
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Sevenoaks, Kent  
United Kingdom  
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[pjjbates2@hotmail.com](mailto:pjjbates2@hotmail.com)

Prof. Nameer, P.O (Research  
Collaborator)  
Head (Centre for Wildlife Studies)  
Specialist Group, SSC, IUCN  
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