

STUDENT CORNER



N V MANIKANTA REDDY

DEPT. OF ENTOMOLOGY

IGKV, RAIPUR.

Manikanta Reddy is influenced by his professors from insect science Dr K. Vijaya Lakshmi and Dr G. Anitha from Dept. of Entomology, PJTASU and the passionate Entomologist Dr. Kamala Jayanthi from ICAR-IIHR.

He had started praising and understanding these miniature wonders, the Shatpadas.

He did his master's degree from IGKV, Raipur and took the dissertation work on evaluating various Bio-intensive pest management modules in Rice for pest management at ICAR-IIRR under the guidance of Dr. Chitra Shanker, Principal scientist, Dept. of Entomology. At present he is pursuing his Ph.D. in Agricultural Entomology from IGKV, Raipur and carrying out my research at ICAR-NBAIR under the guidance of Dr. T. Venkatesan, Principal Scientist and Head, Division of Genomic Resources. His area of work is investigating the transcriptomic changes from the life stages of *Leucinodes orbonalis* and gene function studies to devise novel targets for the management of this devastating pest through exogenous dsRNA-based gene silencing. Though passionate about molecular studies, he would prefer to design projects and work for conservational Entomology.



Mr. SURIYA S

DIVISION OF ENTOMOLOGY

SKUAST-KASHMIR

Suriya S is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Entomology at the Division of Entomology, Faculty of Horticulture, SKUAST - Kashmir. His research focuses on tackling the challenges posed by sucking insect pests like aphids, thrips, whiteflies, and mites on chrysanthemum and carnation plants. Under the guidance of

Dr. Akhtar Ali Khan, his work investigates the morpho-molecular characterization, population dynamics, and management of these pests in protected environments to accurately identify and effectively manage these pests. His approach involves monitoring pest populations using predictive models based on climatic data to optimize control measures. Additionally, he advocates for sustainable pest management practices, utilizing a combination of chemical treatments, organic pesticides, entomopathogens, and sticky traps to minimize environmental impact. He holds a B.Sc. in Agriculture and an M.Sc. in Agricultural Entomology from TNAU, Coimbatore, where he specialized in the bio-ecology and management of invasive whiteflies in coconut plants under the guidance of Dr. G. Preetha. Throughout his academic journey, Suriya has demonstrated his expertise by clearing the ASRB NET twice (2021 & 2023) and contributing significantly to scientific literature through 2 research papers, 1 review paper, 13 book chapters, 1 book, 9 popular articles and attended numerous national conferences and workshops. Looking ahead, he aspires to further develop integrated pest management strategies against sucking pests aimed at reducing the reliance on pesticides and mitigating their environmental consequences.

ABHISHEK V

DEPARTMENT OF ENTOMOLOGY

KELADI SHIVAPPA NAYAKA UNIVERSITY OF
AGRICULTURAL AND HORTICULTURAL SCIENCES,
SHIVAMOGGA, KARNATAKA.



Abhishek V is currently pursuing a PhD in Entomology at Keladi Shivappa Nayaka University of Agricultural and Horticultural Sciences, Shivamogga. He is the recipient of the ICAR-SRF fellowship award for his doctoral program. Presently he is working under the supervision of Dr. David, K. J. Senior Scientist, ICAR-NBAIR, on “Taxonomic studies on species complexes of fruit flies of tribe Dacini (Diptera: Tephritidae: Dacinae) in India. He has been conducting extensive surveys since 2022 to ascertain the diversity of members of such species complexes in Dacini across India, which can lead to a description of new taxa, and nomenclatural changes like synonymisation/ separation from synonymy as there exists a lot of ambiguity in delimiting various species in these complexes primarily to heavy reliance on external morphological characters which are highly homoplasious. As these complexes do have economically important invasive species, precise identification is extremely important. Till now he had described four new species of fruit flies viz., *Dacus nagarathnae* Abhishek, David & Hancock and *Zeugodacus nasivittatus* David & Abhishek from Meghalaya, *Dacus venkateshi* Abhishek & David from Karnataka, and *Zeugodacus sinuvittattus* David & Abhishek from Himachal Pradesh. He also recorded two species of fruit flies viz., *Bactrocera abbreviata* and *Dacus vijaysegarani* for the first time from India. He also explored the Andaman and Nicobar Islands for his fruit fly collection. Abhishek completed his postgraduate studies at Kerala Agricultural University, Thrissur, under the mentorship of Dr. Mani Chellappan, Professor, Head and Dean of KAU. He studied the microbial diversity in hive-stored pollen of the Indian honey bee, *Apis cerana indica*, where he carried out experiments regarding palynological identification, physicochemical properties and microbial composition of pollen where he isolated seven microbial isolates, characterised them morphologically and molecularly, for which he bagged the “Best poster presentation award” in the field of beneficial insects at Entomological students’ conclave, 2024 held at GKVK, Bangalore. Besides, he is very much interested in insect photography.
