

ASHOK KUMAR MALLIK

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EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

- 2018 **PhD**, Centre for Ecological Sciences, **Indian Institute of Science (IISc)**, Bangalore, India.
- 2004 **MPhil**, PG Department of Zoology, **Utkal University**, Bhubaneswar, Orissa, India.
- 2002 **MSc**, PG Department of Zoology, **Utkal University**, Bhubaneswar, Orissa, India.
- 2000 **BSc**, Government College Phulbani, **Berhampur University**, Orissa, India.

RESEARCH AND WORK EXPERIENCE

- Jan 2022- present **Assistant Professor** (OPSC Cadre) at Department of Wildlife and Biodiversity Conservation, **Maharaja Sriram Chandra Bhanja Deo University** (Erstwhile North Orissa University), Takatpur, Baripada, Mayurbhanj, Odisha, India
- Dec 2019- Jan 2022 **Lecturer** (Staff Selection Board Cadre) at **Derabis Degree College**, Derabish, Kendrapara, Odisha India.
- Aug 2019- Dec 2019 **Guest Lecturer**, Department of Zoology, **Ravenshaw University**, Cuttack, Odisha, India.
- Aug 2006- Sep 2018 **Doctoral Student** at Centre for Ecological Sciences, **Indian Institute of Science (IISc)**, Bangalore, India. Ph.D. thesis title, “Systematics and comparative biogeography of vine snakes (Genus: *Ahaetulla*, Family: Colubridae) and pit vipers (Genus: *Trimeresurus*, Family: Viperidae) in Peninsular India”.
- Nov 2014- Feb 2017 **Exchanged Doctoral Student** at School of Natural Sciences, **Bangor University**, United Kingdom and CES, Indian Institute of Science, India. Collaborative project- “Biodiversity Informatics and Technology Exchange for Snakebite management (BITES)” funded by the European Commission, 2014-2017. Task: To carryout analysis of venom gland transcriptomics datasets of Ashy pit viper (*T. puniceus*).
- Nov 2011-Sep 2015 **Research Fellow** at Centre for Ecological Sciences, **Indian Institute of Science (IISc)**, India. Project title, “Patterns of distribution and diversification in select snake genera in the Western Ghats and Northeast India”, funded by Department of Biotechnology (DBT), India. Task: To predict phylogeny, species diversification and reconstruction of biogeographic histories.
- Sep 2003- Feb 2004 **Research Assistant** at **Regional Medical Research Centre (RMRC, ICMR)**, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India. Task: Field collection and lab analysis of food samples.
- Apr 2003- Jun 2003 **Research Fellow** at PG Department of Zoology, **Utkal University**, Odisha, India. Task: To estimate the effect of beach profile on the olive ridley turtles nesting.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

1. Poyarkov NA, Lee JL, Yushchenko PV, Milto KD, Radjabizadeh M, Pouyani ER, Jablonski D, Masroor R, Karunarathna S, **AK Mallik**, Dsouza P, Orlov NL, Nazarov RA. 2023. Kukri snakes *Oligodon Fitzinger, 1826* of the Western Palearctic with the resurrection of *Contia transcaspica* Nikolsky, 1902 (Reptilia, Squamata, Colubridae). *PeerJ* 11:e15185 DOI 10.7717/peerj.15185
2. Achyuthan NS, Adhikari OD, **Mallik AK**, Campbell PD, Bhatt BB, Shanker K, SR Ganesh. 2022. Taxonomic revaluation of the *Ahaetulla prasina* (H. Boie in F. Boie, 1827) complex from Northeast India: resurrection and redescription of *Ahaetulla flavescens* (Wall, 1910) (Reptilia: Serpentes: Colubridae). *European Journal of Taxonomy* 839: 120–148. <https://doi.org/10.5852/ejt.2022.839.1937>
3. Pyron RA, Vivek PC, Ganesh SR, **Mallik AK**, de Silva A, Achyuthan NS, Shanker K. 2022. First report of hemipenial variation among some genera and species of shieldtail snakes (Serpentes: Uropeltidae). *Ichthyology & Herpetology*, 110(2): 299-314. <https://doi.org/10.1643/h2021024>
4. Vogel G, **Mallik AK**, SR Chandramouli, Vivek Sharma, SR Ganesh. 2022. A review of records of the *Trimeresurus albolabris* Gray, 1842 group from the Indian subcontinent: expanded description and range extension of *Trimeresurus salazar*, redescription of *Trimeresurus septentrionalis* and rediscovery of historical specimens of *Trimeresurus davidi* (Reptilia: Viperidae). *Zootaxa* 5175 (3): 343-366.
5. **Mallik AK**, Achyuthan NS, SR Ganesh SR, Vijayakumar SP, Campbell PD, Malhotra A, Shanker K. 2021. Resolving pitfalls in pit viper systematics – A multi-criteria approach to species delimitation in pit vipers (Reptilia, Viperidae, *Craspedocephalus*) of Peninsular India reveals cryptic diversity. *Vertebrate Zoology* 71: 577–619.
6. Ganesh SR, **Mallik AK**, Achyuthan NS, Shanker K, Gernot Vogel. 2021. A new species of *Boiga* (Serpentes: Colubridae) from the Southern Western Ghats of India with a molecular phylogeny and expanded characterisation of related species. *Zootaxa* 4981 (3): 449-468.
7. Ganesh S.R., Deuti K., Punith K.G., Achyuthan N.S., **Mallik A. K.**, Adhikari O., & G. Vogel. 2020. A new species of *Lycodon* (Serpentes: Colubridae) from the Deccan Plateau of India, with notes on the range of *Lycodon travancoricus* (Beddome, 1870) and a revised key to peninsular Indian forms. *Amphibian & Reptile Conservation* 14(3) [Taxonomy Section]: 74–83 (e256).
8. **Mallik A. K.**, Achyuthan N.S., Pal S.P., D'souza P.M., Shanker K. & S.R. Ganesh. 2020. Disentangling vines: a study of morphological crypsis and genetic divergence in vine snakes (Squamata: Colubridae: *Ahaetulla*) with description of four new species from Peninsular India.

[Zootaxa 4874 \(1\): 1-62.](#)

9. **Mallik, A. K.**, A. Srikanthan, S. R. Ganesh, S. P. Pal, S.P. Vijayakumar & K. Shanker. 2019. Discovery of a deeply divergent new lineage of vine snake (Colubridae: Ahaetuliinae: *Proahaetulla* gen. nov.) from the southern Western Ghats of Peninsular India with a revised key for Ahaetuliinae. [PLoS ONE 14\(7\): e0218851.](#)
10. **Mallik, A. K.**, S. Chowdhury, B.B. Bhatt & A. Captain. 2019. First field report of *Sinonatrix percarinata* (BOULENGER, 1899) (Reptilia: Squamata: Natricidae) from India with notes on its natural history. [Amphibian and Reptilian Conservation 13\(2\): 299–303 \(e214\).](#)

COFERENCES/ WEBINARS

- Invited as a **Panelist/Speaker** in the **National Convening on Human-Wildlife Interactions in Eastern Ghats Region** held during September 18–19, 2025, organized by the Department of Environmental Science, **Berhampur University**, Bhanja Vihar – 760007, Berhampur, Odisha, India. *Topic titled: Venom and Vulnerability: Reconciling Snakebite Mitigation with Snake Conservation.*
- Invited as a **Resource person** at the **Faculty Development Program (FDP), 2025** on June 5, 2025, organized by the School of Applied Sciences, **Centurion University of Technology and Management**, Jatni, Odisha, India. Topic: *Uncovering Snake Diversity and Distribution in the Old World Tropics through Molecular Systematics and Multinational Research Alliances.*
- **Invited Speaker** on an Extramural seminar on April 30th, 2024, at Department of Zoology, **Government Women's College**, Baripada, Odisha, India. Topic titled: *Species Diversity, Distribution and Evolution of Snakes in Eastern Ghats with Special Refenereces to Odisha.*
- **Invited Speaker** in a seminar on Invited Lectures on “Biodiversity of Tribal Pockets of Eastern Ghats and Environment Sustainability” on February 13th, 2024, at **Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences** (KISS Deemed To Be University), Bhubaneswar, Odisha. Topic tilted: *Unravelling the Ecology, Evolution and Molecular Diversity of Snakes in India: Insights for Conservation and Management.*
- **Invited Speaker** In a National Seminar on the theme “National Seminar on Socio-Economic Issues and Development Dynamics in the Northeast Region of India” from February 2nd to February 3rd, 2024, at the **Darrang College, Assam**. Topic tilted: *Mitigating Socioeconomic Consequences of Snakebites: Exploring and Understanding Snake Species Diversity in North East India.*
- **Invited Speaker** on a National Seminar on the theme "Recent Advances in Biological Sciences: Biodiversity & Human Welfare" from November 18th to November 19th, 2022, at the **Darrang College, Assam**. Topic titled: *Morphological, Crypsis, Genetic Divergence and Inflation in Snake Species Diversity in Peninsular India, The Unaccounted Noah's Ark!*

- **Invited speaker** in National Webinar on Current Trends in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology held at the **Department of Zoology, Seemantha Mahavidyalaya**, Jharpokharia, Mayurbhanj, Odisha (2020). Topic titled- *Distribution and diversification of a few genera of snakes in Peninsular India with special reference to the Western Ghats.*
- **Resource person** in **Department of Zoology Webinar** held at the **Department of Zoology, Udala College**, Udala, Mayurbhanj, Odisha (2020). Topic title- *Taxonomy, Evolution and Ecology of snakes in Peninsular Indian with special reference to the Western Ghats.*
- **Invited speaker** in International Conference cum Webinar on ‘Research Frontiers and Prospects in Biosciences and Biotechnology’ held at the **P.G. Dept. of Biosciences and Biotechnology, Fakir Mohan University**, Balasore-756089, Odisha, India (2020). Topic titled- *The Unaccounted Noah’s Ark! A case study of morphological crypsis, genetic divergence and inflation in snake species diversity in peninsular India.*
- **Invited speaker** in International Webinar on Recent Advances in the Field of Biological Sciences held at the Department of Zoology, **Chikiti Degree Mahavidyalaya**, Chikiti, Ganjam, Odisha (2020). Topic titled- *Molecular Systematic and Species Diversification of Snakes in India.*
- **Invited speaker** in National Seminar on Advances and Challenges in Biological Sciences held at the **Department of Zoology, Berhampur University**, Odisha (2020). Topic titled- *Entangling Vines and Troublesome Trimes: A Multi-Criteria Species Delimitations Approach to Understand the Snake Diversity in Peninsular India.*
- **Resource person** in Wild Biomes online program by **Kalinga Centre for Rainforest Ecology & Kalinga Foundation**, Agumbe, Hosur Grama, Guddekere, Shivamogga Karnataka, India. Topic title- Snakes of Western Ghats.
- Poster presentation in **International Biogeography Society** meeting held at Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore (September 2017). Topic titled- “Comparative Biogeography of Vine Snakes (*Ahaetulla*, Colubridae) And Asian Pit Vipers (*Trimeresurus*, Viperidae) In Peninsular India”.
- Participated and volunteered in the **Student Conference on Conservation Science (SCCS)** at Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, India (2010).
- Participated in the **Young Ecologists Talk & Interact (YETI)**, held in Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, India (October 2010).
- Participated in the **IISc Centenary Conference**, held in Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, India (13th -16th Dec 2008).

SKILLS

- Expertise in genetic diversification, species delimitation and molecular systematics.
- Expertise in handling of molecular phylogenetics and biogeographic tools.
- Hands-on with genomic data alignment and analysis.

- Expertise in systematics of Indian snakes, reptiles and other herpetofauna.
- More than 16 yrs. of field work experience.
- R language and GIS tools.
- Biodiversity documentation & Animal census techniques.
- Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Member of IUCN SSC viper specialist group.
- Member of International Biogeography Society
- Member of The Systematic Association, London
- Member of South Asian Reptile Network (SARN)
- Member of Chiroptera Conservation and Information Network of South Asia (CCINSA)

JOURNALS

- Associate Editor, Asian Journal of Conservation Biology (AJCB)

WORKSHOPS

- SERC School of Herpetology (2007) held in North Orissa University, Orissa and Department of Science and Technology, Govt. of India.
- GIS workshop conducted by Foundation for Ecological Research, Advocacy and Learning (FERAL) and CES, IISc, India.

FELLOWSHIPS

- Qualified GATE 2003 and 2005 in Life Science (Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering)

OTHER ACTIVITIES

- Carried out EIA work in hydroelectric, mining and water irrigation a few projects.
- Snakebite mitigation programs, management of human-wildlife conflict, wildlife rescue and rehabilitation.