

Seminar

Predation risk and prey reproductive traits: ecology and evolutionary consequences

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Fantastic reproductive traits are shaped not only by sexual selection through mate preferences but also by natural selection as they tend to attract predators. At the ecological timescale, predators can influence prey fitness not just by eating them, but also by scaring them into altering conspicuous traits and behaviours. Therefore, predicting any evolutionary change as an emergent outcome of risk management requires an understanding of the underlying mechanisms governing predator-prey interactions. For doing so, I develop and address theoretical predictions using empirical evidence collected with a combination of field surveys, observations, and experiments. In this talk I focus on the role of habitat choice in structuring prey populations through assortative mating. I develop a framework and link it to some of my future plans which include effects of climate on species interactions, phenotype-environment matching in a landscape of fear and ecosystem consequences of species interactions.

Friday, Nov 3rd 2023

4:00 PM (Tea / Coffee 3.45 PM)

Auditorium, TIFR-H