



AKIB JAHIR MSc.

Passionate entomologist building a career in integrated pest management, focusing on biological control of insects and integrated approach strategies. Experienced in field work, lab conditions and semi-field environments; enthusiastic about the application of learnings towards the agriculture and public health sectors.

CONTACT



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Maldives



akibjahir.com

SKILLS

- Fluent in English, Bengali, Hindi
- RStudio Statistical Analysis
- Building Proficiency in QGIS
- Greenhouse Experience
- Experimental Design & Execution in Lab, Field, and Semi-Field Conditions
- Mass Insect Rearing

WORK EXPERIENCE

Soneva

Area Integrated Pest Control Manager, Maldives, 2021 - Present

- Managed team of 25 across all three Soneva island resorts
- Expanded Mass Trapping and Larval Source Management Project for all Soneva islands, with the goal to create mosquito free resorts with decreased chemical usage and increased biodiversity
- Consulted with top luxury brands in the Maldives, such as Joali Maldives and Dusit Thani, on sustainable mosquito management

Integrated Pest Control Manager, Soneva Fushi, 2018 - 2021

- Hired as the first in-house integrated pest control manager for Soneva Fushi and grew island team to 11 members
- Strategized and implemented control measures to tackle household pests for 71 villas, ranging from 208 SQM to 3,048 SQM, with a focus on minimizing chemical insecticides and maintaining the island's thriving ecosystem
- Reduced guest complaints in the first year from 67 to 4. Slashed budget by \$24,000 with improved efficiency and results
- Pioneered Mass Trapping and Larval Source Management for the Elimination of the Asian Tiger Mosquito and Southern House Mosquito with a success rate of 98% of Culex and 95% reduction of Aedes. Coverage of this work provided by Soneva, Travel Trade Maldives, Biogents, Greening the Islands, Maldives Insider, GlobeTrender, Intelligent Living, Away In Style, and The Edition
- Collected and statistically analyzed data daily through heat maps and graphs

Harper Adams University

Harper Adams University Student Ambassador, UK, 2017 - 2018

- Worked at the Entoscience Conference 2018 with students aged 7-16 years at the Harper Adams University. Worked regularly as a student ambassador in the post-graduate open days in Harper Adams University.

EDUCATION

MSc. Integrated Pest Management

Harper Adams University

Shropshire, UK / 2017 - 2018

- "Factors affecting the efficacy of traps used to monitor Vine Weevil adults" Masters Research Project (supervisor: Dr Tom Pope in association with Russell IPM Ltd)
- "Aphid Parasitoid Preference and Performance" and "Droplet size distribution of flat fan nozzles 015 and 025" at Harper Adams University."
- Studied silk moth and termite rearing entomology. Field trips included observation, collection and identification of insects.

Msc. Zoology

Aligarh Muslim University

Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh, India / 2014 - 2016

- Research project: Entomology (Supervisor: Dr Ayesha Qamar) "Evaluation of Toxicity of Eucalyptus and Peppermint Essential oils against Subterranean Termites C formosanus"

BSc. (Hons) Zoology

Aligarh Muslim University

Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh, India / 2011 - 2014

Key Modules: Zoology, Chemistry, Botany



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PUBLICATIONS

Pest Management Science

Catch me if you can: the influence of refuge / trap design, previous feeding experience, and semiochemical lures on vine weevil (Coleoptera: Curculionidae) monitoring success

<https://doi.org/10.1002/ps.5545>

Demonstrating differences in the efficacy of different monitoring tool designs is an important first step for developing improved methods for monitoring vine weevil populations within crops. This study presents the first direct comparison of vine weevil monitoring tool designs and indicates that trap efficacy can be improved by baiting with host-plant material or a synthetic lure based on host-plant volatiles. © 2019 Society of Chemical Industry

Insects Journal (MDPI)

Mass Trapping and Larval Source Management for Mosquito Elimination on Small Maldivian Islands

<https://doi.org/10.3390/insects13090805>

For the first time, a combination of human odor-baited mosquito traps (at 6.0 traps/ha), oviposition traps (7.2 traps/ha) and larval source management (LSM) was used to practically eliminate populations of the Asian tiger mosquito *Aedes albopictus* (peak suppression 93.0% (95% CI 91.7–94.4)) and the Southern house mosquito *Culex quinquefasciatus* (peak suppression 98.3% (95% CI 97.0–99.5)) from a Maldivian island (size: 41.4 ha) within a year and thereafter observed a similar collapse of populations on a second island (size 49.0 ha; trap densities 4.1/ha and 8.2/ha for both trap types, respectively).

AWARDS & DISTINCTIONS

Soneva SLOW LIFE Guardian Award, 2020

Presented to a single individual company-wide who best embodies the Company's Core Values of Sustainability, Organic, Learning, etc.

Soneva Innovation Award, 2020

Presented to a single individual company-wide who pioneers innovation in their respective field

Student British Crop Production Council Award, 2018

"Akib's research project investigated the use of plant materials to enhance trapping efficacy of ChemTica traps to monitor vine weevil numbers within crops in order to improve management of this important pest. Akib's work has made a substantial contribution to the development sustainable approaches to the control of this pest."

Awarded Best Entomology Student, 2015 – 2016

Aligarh Muslim University

PRESENTATIONS

TEDx Speaker, 2022

Invited to present "Zero Mosquitoes, Zero Fogging" at TEDx Baa Atoll, discussing the pioneering mosquito project on Soneva Fushi Island