

# Dr. Vani Kulkarni

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Principal Investigator (DBT BioCARE)

National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), Bangalore

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## Profile

Interdisciplinary biologist working at the interface of behavioural ecology and microbiome science. Research integrates behavioural experiments, ecological analysis, and microbial genomics to understand how animals respond to environmental change, with a focus on primates in anthropogenic environments.

## Signature Contribution

Demonstrating how individual variation in primate foraging behaviour influences the use of anthropogenic food resources, providing insights into human-wildlife interactions and ecological flexibility.

## Current Position

Principal Investigator (DBT BioCARE), NIAS, Bangalore (2024–present)

Leads research on primate microbiomes across wild, urban, and captive systems.

## Honours & Recognition

Selected Participant, Bio-responsibility Future Leaders Programme (BFLP), IISc (2026)

Selected Participant, NCCR Winter School (2026)

## Publications

### *Peer-reviewed Articles*

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Kulkarni, V., & Radhakrishna, S. (2026). Revisiting wildlife crop foraging: why don't all individuals forage on crops? *Acta Ethologica*, 29, 14. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10211-026-00486-2>

Khadilkar et al. (2017). *Scientific Reports*.

Khadilkar et al. (2014). *PNAS*.

Kulkarni et al. (2011). *PLOS ONE*.

Nagesha et al. (2007). Journal of Horticultural Science & Biotechnology.

***In Preparation***

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Ecological genomics of the gut in Indian primates

Decision rules under uncertainty: food evaluation in bonnet macaques

**Education**

PhD, Molecular Biology & Genetics, JNCASR

MSc, Plant Biotechnology, UAS Bangalore

BSc, Agriculture Biology, UAS Bangalore