

Mr. Varun Saini

Ph.D. final year Entomology

National Pusa Collection

E-mail: varuninsecttaxonomist@gmail.com



Currently I am pursuing PhD in Entomology (Insect Taxonomy) with research entitled “Taxonomic studies of tribe Crabronini (Hymenoptera: Crabronidae: Crabroninae) under the guidance of Dr. Debjani Dey. The objectives of my study covers the collection and survey of Crabronid Wasps (Sand Wasps) with morphological and molecular identification respectively.

I obtained my BSc (Hons.) degree in Agriculture from CCS Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar, Haryana, India in 2013. I have completed my MSc degree in Agricultural Entomology from Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore, T.N. India in 2015. During MSc, my research emphasis on Rice pests taxonomy especially on *Cnaphalocrocis* and *Scirpophaga*.

Publications:

Saini, V., Singh, S., Rawal, R. and Venkatesh, Y.N. 2017. Species diversity and distribution of *Cnaphalocrocis* and *Scirpophaga* (Lepidoptera: Crambidae) species complex in rice in Tamil Nadu, India. *Journal of Entomology and Zoology Studies*, **5** (4): 1308-1313.

Saini,V., Ramaraju,K. and Chitra,N. 2017. Occurrence of new stem borer species, *Scirpophaga virginia* (Lepidoptera: Pyraloidea: Crambidae) from Tamil Nadu, India and its taxonomic re-description. *Ecology, Environment and Conservation*, **23** (3): 1636-1639.

Saini,V., Ramaraju, K. and Chitra, N. 2017. Revision of the genus *Cnaphalocrocis* (Lepidoptera: Pyraloidea: Crambidae) occurring on rice in Tamil Nadu, India. *International Journal of Agriculture Sciences*, **9** (1): 3631-3636.