

CURRICULUM VITAE

Personal

Name Stephen James Venn
Home address Kunnarlantie 108, 02740 Espoo, Finland
Date of birth 17.01.1962
Place of birth Colchester, England
Nationality British
Languages English (mother tongue), Finnish (fluent)

Education

09.1973-06.1980 Magnus Grammar School, Newark, Notts, UK.
09.1984-10.1987 S. Glamorgan Institute of HE, Cardiff, S. Glamorgan, UK.
09.1996-12.2003 Helsinki University, Dept. of Systematics and Ecology
01.2004- 12.2013 HU, Dept. of Biological Sciences

Examinations

BTEC H. Diploma Histology/Cytology & Microbiology/Virology
M.Sc. Morphological Ecological Zoology (Magna cum laude
approbatur 16th June 2000)
Ph.D. Ecological and Evolutionary Biology, dissertation 9.8.2013,
Grade: Cum laude approbatur

Employment (since 2000)

1.4.2001-31.12.2003 EU/Helsinki University, Dept. of Ecology and Systematics,
1.1.2004 – 16.2.2007 EU/Helsinki University, Dept. of Biol. and Environmental
Sciences
1.4.2007 – 31.1.2010 eLearning planner, Helsinki University, Faculties of
Biosciences and Pharmacy
1.2.2010 – 31.12.2012 Doctoral student, Finnish Academy funding

Supervision of Academic theses

- 1) Rokala, Kati (2003) M.Sc. thesis Carabid beetles in urban parks – management effects on species assemblage.
- 2) Jokinen, Jenni (2007) M.Sc. thesis: Effects of mowing on ground beetle assemblages of urban meadows, Helsinki University, Dept. of Biological and Environmental Sciences.
- 3) Peltonen, Sanna (2008) Ecological network for the city of Lahti and the significance of ecological corridors for biodiversity, Helsinki University, Dept. of Env. Ecology, Lahti.
- 4) Vehko, Paula (2009) Effects of meadow management strategies on butterfly (Lepidoptera) populations of urban meadows in Helsinki, Dept. of Biosciences.
- 5) Ketola, Päivi (2009) Effects of urbanization and management history on carabid beetles (Coleoptera Carabidae) in urban meadows, Dept. of Biosciences.
- 6) Edgren, Carin (2010) Accumulation of heavy metals across trophic levels in dry meadow ecosystems, Dept. of Environmental Sciences.
- 7) Lassila, Titta (2011) Effects of management on carabid beetle assemblages of urban meadows Helsinki University, Dept. Environmental Sciences.
- 8) Ji Li (2013) Carabid beetle assemblages of dry meadow habitats in the Helsinki Metropolitan area, Dept. of Environmental Sciences.
- 9) Teerikangas, Jenny (2013) Toimivatko pääkaupunkiseudun kaupunkiniityt ja –ruderaatit sopivina elinympäristöinä mesipistiäisille? Dept. of Environmental Sciences.

Details of Employment and Activities

1. URGE project

In April 2001, I commenced working for the EU V Framework project URGE (Key Action 4 City of Tomorrow and Cultural Heritage) as a researcher, in which I had sole responsibility for the ecological work of the project, under the supervision of Prof. Jari Niemelä. My work for the project included the development of a panel of criteria for the ecological assessment of urban green space, the integration of these criteria into a multidisciplinary battery of criteria, advice to city partners in their collection of ecological data and the subsequent analysis of the data. I also organized an international workshop for the project in Helsinki in September 2001.

2. Asia-Link

Also on the 1st March 2004, I commenced working on the EU funded Asia-link project, 'Curriculum Development for Urban Ecosystem Management with the special component of an interactive Urban Ecosystem Studio.' In this project, a curriculum for the training of professionals in the field of ecosystem management was developed, focusing on Asian and European systems and on urban wetlands. Other partners in this project were from Austria, Thailand and Vietnam. This project was completed in February 2007.

3. Urban grasslands research

One of my main research interests is the potential biodiversity value of semi-natural grasslands in urban areas and the role of their species assemblages in the provision of ecosystem services, such as pollination and control. After provisional studies on the carabid fauna of park grasslands and abandoned fields in Helsinki during 2003 and 2005, I established the project Helsinki Meadows in 2006. This project has been developed in close cooperation with Helsinki Department of Public Works, Urban Facts and Environment Centre, as well as the Finnish Environment Institute, and has included studies of soil properties and the plant, carabid, lepidopteran and hymenopteran assemblages of grassland habitats in the urban and peri-urban region. The objective of the project is to investigate the contribution of meadow habitats to urban biodiversity and to identify the environmental and management factors which enhance their value. In 2010 a new project was established to assess the potential of artificial meadows to provide supplementary habitat to support dry meadow ecosystems.

4. University pedagogy

I completed University pedagogy I (10 op) in 2007 and University pedagogy II (15 op, 5/5) in the Spring term 2010. I have continually implemented my pedagogical training in the development of the course, Workshops in Conservation Biology, which I have taught since 2006. University Pedagogy II included an assignment on evaluation of small group work. I will complete my University Pedagogy III course in the Autumn term 2013.

5. Expert evaluator

In December 2010 and January 2011, I participated in an expert panel for the evaluation of proposals for EU FP7-ENV-2011 - Evaluation - Topic 2011.2.1.5-1 Sustainable and Resilient Green Cities.

Evaluation panel member for Polish Norwegian Research Programme 2012-2013.

Evaluation panel member for Latvian Science Council 2013.

Recent conferences and meetings

- 19.-23.5.2012 European Dry Grasslands Group Meeting, Prespa, Greece, oral: Potential benefits of urban dry meadow habitats for bee diversity
- 28.8.-1.9.2012 European Congress of Conservation Biology, Glasgow, oral and poster.
- 3.5.2013 URBES Meeting, Helsinki, oral: Bringing Biodiversity and Pollination to newly created urban recreational areas
- 23.-27.9.2013 European Carabidologists' Meeting16, oral: Urban Dry Rocky Meadows are Valuable Habitats for Carabid Beetles.
- 29.9-3.10.2013 Open Landscapes Conference, Hildesheim, Germany, oral: Creating dry meadow habitats to support the diversity of pollinating insects in urban regions.

Teaching

I participated in the UrbanEcosystemStudio team, which developed the international Master's curriculum in Urban Ecosystem Management, completed in 2007. Member of development team of the Helsinki University international master's programme Multidisciplinary Studies in Urban Environmental Issues MURE. The programme was developed during 2008-2010 and teaching commenced in Autumn 2010. I have also run the 6 op course Workshops in Conservation Biology alone since 2006, which I have revized substantially during the course of my pedagogy studies. From 12-19th May 2013 I taught on the EU Erasmus Intensive Programme, 'Science Communication as a Tool for Future Biologist and Environmental Specialist' at Daugavpils University, Latvia.

Other responsibilities

Since March 2002, I have been the chairman of Espoo city's nature conservation organization, ESPYY ry., for which I was awarded the city's Espoo medal in 2011. I have also been an editor of the scientific periodical Baltic Journal of Coleopterology since January 2003. I joined the Education committee of the European wing of the Society of Conservation Biology in 2009. I have been a member of the Royal Entomological Society since 2008, British Ecological Society since 2010, Society of Conservation Biology since 2005 and the European Dry Grasslands Group (EDGG) since 2010. I was elected General Secretary of the EDGG in 2011.

Memberships of International Societies

Royal Entomological Society, UK
British Ecological Society, UK
Society of Conservation Biology

Editorial activity

Invited member of editorial board of Hacquetia special number on Open Landscapes 2013-2014. Baltic Journal of Coleopterology, Editorial board.

Subject editor for Biodiversity Data Journal.

Refereeing for following journals: Ecology, Annales Zoologica Fennici, European Journal of Entomology, Insect Conservation and Diversity, Zookeys, Pensoft, Sustainability, Journal of Insect Conservation, Annales de la Société entomologique de France and Ecological Applications.

Ph.D.

I defended my Ph.D. thesis entitled Managing forest and meadow habitats for the enhancement of urban biodiversity – messages from carabid beetles and vascular plants on 9th August 2013.

Publications

1. In Refereed Journals

- Tzoulas, K., Korpela, K., Venn, S., Yli-Pelkonen, V., Kazmierczak, O., Niemelä, J. & James, P. (2007) *Enhancing Ecosystem and Human Health in Urban areas: Green Infrastructure as an Integrative Framework Landscape and Urban Planning* **81**(3):167-178
- Venn, S. (2007) Morphological responses to disturbance in wing-polymorphic carabid species (Coleoptera Carabidae) of managed urban grasslands *Baltic Journal of Coleopterology* **7**(1):51-60
- Saarikivi, J., Idström, L., Venn, S., Niemelä, J. & Kotze, D. (2010) Urban golf courses are characterised by high carabid beetle (Coleoptera, Carabidae) diversity submitted to *European Journal of Entomology* **107**: 553–561
- Manninen, S., Forss, S. and Venn, S. (2010) Management mitigates the impact of urbanization on meadow vegetation. *Urban Ecosystems* **13**: 461-481
- Kotze, D.J., Brandmayr, P., Casale, A., Dauffy-Richard, E., Dekoninck, W., Koivula, M., Lövei, G.L., Mossakowski, D., Noordijk, J., Paarmann, W., Pizzolotto, R., Saska, P., Schwerk, A., Serrano, J., Szyszko, J., Taboada, A., Turin, H., Venn, S., Vermeulen, R. & Zetto, T. (2011) Forty years of carabid beetle research in Europe – from taxonomy, biology, ecology and population studies to bioindication, habitat assessment and conservation *Zookeys* (100): 55–148
- Venn, S.J., Kotze, D.J., Lassila, T. & Niemelä, J.K. (2013) Urban dry meadows provide valuable habitat for granivorous and xerophilic carabid beetles *Journal of Insect Conservation* **17**: 747-764 DOI 10.1007/s10841-013-9558-8
- Blomster, J., Venn, S.J. & Virtanen, V. (Submitted) Student Involvement in Research is determined by Academics' Conceptions of Research-based Teaching and Learning *Teaching in Higher Education*
- Venn, S. & Kotze, D.J. (Manuscript) Benign neglect enhances urban habitat heterogeneity: vegetation and carabid beetle responses to the cessation of mowing park lawns
- Venn, S., Kotze, D.J. & Niemelä, J. (Manuscript) Morphological responses to disturbance in urban carabid assemblages: wing-length and body size

2. Book chapters

- Kotze, D., Venn, S., Niemelä, J. & Spence, J. (2010) Urban arthropods: anthropogenic effects on their ecology and evolution, chapter in *The [Oxford] Handbook of Urban Ecology* ed. Niemelä, J., Oxford University Press, UK
- Vrahnakis, M.S., Janišová, M., Rūsiņa, S., Török, P., Venn, S., Dengler, J. (2013): The European Dry Grassland Group (EDGG): stewarding Europe's most diverse habitat type. – In: Baumbach, H. [Ed.]: *Steppenlebensräume Europas – Gefährdung, Erhaltungsmaßnahmen und Schutz*. Erfurt.
- Venn, S., Schulman, H., Törrönen, S., Salla, A., Vilisics, F., Karjalainen, S. (manuscript, submission March 2014) Helsinki Invertebrates in John Kelcey (ed.) *Vertebrates and Invertebrates in European Cities*, Springer-Verlag, Germany

3. Invited contributions

- Venn, S.J. & Kratochwil, A. 2012 Insect surveying during Prespa excursions, May 2012 *Bulletin of the European Dry Grasslands Group* **15**: 5-7