**Dr. Reut Berger-Tal**

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| E-mail | [tut.berger.tal@gmail.com](mailto:tut.berger.tal@gmail.com) |
| Languages | English (fluent) and Hebrew (mother tongue). |
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Professional Experience:

**Visiting scientist**, The Bio-Circuits Institute, University of California San Diego,

La Jolla, CA, USA

*November 2014- Ongoing*

Studying the effects of genetic variability and personality on individual immune ability.

**Post-Doc fellow**, section for Genetic, Ecology and Evolution, Aarhus University, Denmark.

*October 2012- September 2014*

Studied the effects of genetic variability on immune ability in social spiders.

*Key accomplishments:*

* Coordinated team work to research field in South Africa to study social spiders: *Stegodyphus dumicola.*
* Academic teacher**:** ‘Methods in Field Ecology’: coordinator and teacher in a course for scientific methods to graduate students (total 120hr).
* Won a travel grant ($1500) to attend The International Congress of Arachnology 2013 in Taiwan.
* Supervised MSc. Student thesis research.
* Published two scientific papers (see publications).
* Developed new methods using microbiology tools to test immune response in social spiders.
* Scientific Reviewer for the *’Journal of Insect Behaviour’, ‘Behavioral Ecology’, ‘The Biological**Journal of the Linnean Society’.*

**PhD** researcher, the Mitrani Department of Desert Ecology, Ben-Gurion University, Israel.

Topic: on the interface between behavioural ecology and genetic variation.

*May 2008-May 2012*

Submitted a research proposal, executed research, and gained extensive research skills. Published scientific papers and presented work in scientific conferences. Collaborated and networked with peers.

*Key accomplishments:*

* Coordinated team work in two research field trips to South Africa to study social spiders: *Stegodyphus dumicola* and *Stegodyphus mimosarum*.
* Teaching assistant**:** ‘Advanced Zoology Field Course’ - an international course in behavioural ecology, Germany (60 hrs).
* Won a prize for best presented poster in the European Congress of Arachnology.
* Won ‘The Merav Ziv’ ecology student award, and two student research grants from the American Arachnology Society ($700 and $600 each).
* Won three grants: to attend a conference ($1000, The Israeli Zoological Society Travel Grant) and to visit two other labs overseas ($5000, ‘The AGSoS visiting grant’) to Aarhus University, Denmark and ($1500, ‘The Israeli-Danish Cultural Agreement’) to Copenhagen University, Denmark.
* Scientific conferences:
  1. Initiated and managed a PhD graduate colloquium, Ben-Gurion University.
  2. Coordinated four IDEER graduate symposiums, Ben-Gurion University.
* Presented my work in 9 international conferences.
* Guest editor to a special issue for the *Israel Journal of Evolutionary and Ecology’*.
* Published three scientific papers in peer review journals.

**Research Assistant,** Department of Zoology,

Cambridge University, United Kingdom.

November 2004-February 2005

Volunteered in a field study looking at the mating behaviour and ecology of the grey fantail, a common insectivore bird in Canberra, ACT, Australia.

*Key accomplishments:*

* Initiated a side project which was later published as a scientific paper in a peer-reviewed journal.

**Nature guide and an outdoor teacher,** The Society for Protecting Nature in Israel (SPNI), Israel.

*Independent nature guide*: September 1999- September 2000, June 2003- October 2004

*Army service, outdoor K-12 teacher*: September 1997-August 1999

Nature-guide for classes (30 students) of K-12 student excursions, and a teacher for pre-excursion preparations.

*Key accomplishments:*

* Guided more than 400 different groups of students.
* Experience in guiding both outdoor and indoor classes.
* Volunteer in a youth movement to encourage outdoor nature experience for K-9 students.

Education:

* **PhD** in Ecology, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel.

Research title: “The genetic consequences of inbreeding in a social spider”.

*May 2008- June 2013*

* **MSc** in Ecology, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel.

Research title: “Male mate search strategy in a desert spider”.

*September 2005- May 2007*

* **B.Sc.** in Biology, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel.

*October 2001- May 2004*

Computing Experience:

Microsoft office, statistical programs: R, JMP, STATISTICA, SAS, computer programming in MATLAB.

Publications:

1. Limited male dispersal in a social spider with extreme inbreeding (2009). Lubin, Y., K. Birkhofer, **Berger-Tal, R.** and T. Bilde (2009).. *The Biological Journal of the Linnean Society*, *97: 227-234*.
2. Environmental policy and conservation: from theory to practice (2009). Berger-Tal O., **Berger-Tal, R**., Bounioux, C., Embar, K., Sandomirsky, I. G., Huberman-Meraiot,N., Inbar, A., Indoitu, R., Mukherjee, S., Nathan, J., & Rangarajan, M.. *Current Science 97:1279.*
3. Nest desertion by Grey Fantails during nest building in response to perceived predation risk(2010). **Berger-Tal, R.**, O. Berger-Tal and Munro K. *Journal of Field Ornithology, 81:151-154*
4. High cost of Male mate search and a female biased sex-ratio shapes male mating strategies(2011). **Berger-Tal, R**. and Lubin, Y. *Animal Behavior 82: 853-859.*
5. Males assess female sexual maturity and mating status in a web-building spider. (2012). Tuni, C. and **Berger-Tal, R. (Equal Authors)** (2012).*Behavioral Ecology 23 (3): 582-587*
6. High mortality and female-biased operational sex ratio result in low encounter rates and moderate polyandry in a spider (2012). Tuni, C. and **Berger-Tal, R.**. *The biological Journal of the Linnean Society 107 (4): 910-919.*
7. Fitness consenquences in a social spider with an inbreeding mating system (2014). **Berger-Tal, R.,** Tuni, C. Lubin, Y., Smith, D., Bilde, T. *Evolution 68: 343-351*.
8. Evolution of culture (2013)**. Berger-Tal, R.,** Kiekebusch, E., Sandomirsky,I., and Pilosof, S. *Israel Journal of Ecology & Evolution, 59:2, 43-44,*
9. Evidence for loss of nepotism in the evolution of permanent sociality. **Berger-Tal, R.,** Lubin, Y., Bilde, T., Settepani, V., Majer, M., and Tuni, C. *Scientific Reports 5:13248*
10. Leaving home: change in resource availability increase kin competition. **Berger-Tal, R.,** Berner-Aharon, N., Aharon, S., Tuni, C., and Lubin, Y. *Accepted for publication ’Journal of Animal Ecology’*

Presentations at conferences (sample):

1. Reut Berger-Tal and Yael Lubin (2006). **Low mating rate and male mate search strategy in the spider *Stegodyphus lineatus.*** *2nd Meeting of the Israeli Arachnology Group, Sede-Boqer, Israel.* (Oral Presentation)
2. Reut Berger-Tal and Yael Lubin (2006). **Low mating rate and male mate strategy in the spider *Stegodyphus lineatus*.** *The 43rd Annual Meeting of the Israel Zoological Society, Ra’anana, Israel*. (Oral Presentation)
3. Reut Berger-Tal and Yael Lubin (2007). **Male mate search and mate preference in the spider *Stegodyphus lineatus.*** *13th Annual European Meeting of PhD Students in Evolutionary Biology, Lund, Sweden* .(Oral Presentation)
4. Reut Berger-Tal and Yael Lubin (2008). **When mate search is costly but males are polygamous.***24th European Congress of Arachnology, Bern, Switzerland*. (Oral Presentation)
5. Reut Berger-Tal and Yael Lubin (2009). **Are there benefits to foraging with kin in inbred social spiders?** *12th Congress of the European Society for Evolutionary Biology (ESEB), Torino, Italy* (Poster presentation)
6. Reut Berger-Tal and Yael Lubin (2010). **Are there benefits to foraging with kin in inbred social spiders?** *16th International Union for the Study of Social Insects (IUSSI), Copenhagen, Denmark.* (Oral presentation)
7. Reut Berger-Tal and Yael Lubin (2010). **Are there benefits to foraging with kin in inbred social spiders?** *The 47th Annual Meeting of the Israel Zoological Society, Jerusalem, Israel.* (Oral presentation)
8. Reut Berger-Tal, Yael Lubin and Trine Bilde (2011). **Contrasting effect of inbreeding and outbreeding of inbred sociality.** *The 26th European Congress of Arachnology*, S*ede-Boker, Israel*. (Oral presentation)
9. Reut Berger-Tal and Cristina Tuni (2011). **Male preference and female cues: males assess female sexual maturity and mating status in a web-building spider.** *The 26th European Congress of Arachnology*, Sede-Boker, Israel. (Poster Presentation: 2nd prize for poster presentation)
10. Reut Berger-Tal, Na’ama Berner-Aaron, Shlomi Aaron, Cristina Tuni, Trine Bilde, and Yael Lubin (2011). **Should I stay or should I go? Resource competition induces dispersal in a social spider.** *The 48th Annual Meeting of the Israel Zoological Society*, *Tel-Aviv, Israel* (Oral presentation)
11. Reut Berger-Tal, Cristina Tuni, Trine Bilde and Yael Lubin (2012). **Indiscriminate cooperation in a social spider.** *The International Society for Behavioral Ecology***.** Lund, Sweden (Oral presentation).
12. Reut Berger-Tal,Trine Bilde (2012)**. Immunogenetic in social spiders.** *Social spiders mini-symposium.*Skagen, Denmark (Oral presentation)
13. Reut Berger-Tal, Yael Lubin and Trine Bilde (2013). **Fitness consequences of outcrossing in a social spider with an inbreeding mating system.** *The 19th International Congress of Arachnology***,** Kenting park, Taiwan (Oral presentation)