

Itamar Talpaz

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Higher Education and Training

Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel, Ph.D. in Life Sciences (Direct Track) 2024–Present

- GPA: 100 (6 credits)
- Writing a research paper on rat disease infections across environmental gradients in Madagascar, utilizing computational methods of network science and machine learning.

Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel, B.Sc. in Life Sciences (Environmental Track) 2021–2024

- Final GPA: 96.78
- Participant in the “Dkalim” excellence program (M.Sc. fast track), took advanced courses and conducted research during the second year of the B.Sc. excellence program.
- Participant in the “Ashalim” excellence program, gained exposure to diverse research areas within the Natural Sciences Faculty.

Work Experience

Research Student, Prof. Shai Pilosof’s Lab, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel 2023–Present

- Initially as part of the “Dkalim” excellence program; currently as part of Ph.D. research.
- Conduct analysis for a methodological paper using a computational method developed in the lab (Ecological multilayers project).
- Lead research on rat disease infections across environmental gradients in Madagascar, utilizing computational methods of network science and machine learning.
- Contribute to the “Land Use Changes and Disease in Madagascar” project (funded by NIH and NSF-BSF), led by Prof. Charles Nunn, Duke University, USA.

Teaching Assistant, Statistical Principles in the Analysis of Research Data (Life Sciences B.Sc. course) November 2024–Present

Research Assistant, Prof. Yaron Ziv’s Lab, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel 2022–2023

- Conducted arthropod pitfall traps placing, collecting, and filtering.

Veterinary Assistant, Dr. Guy Harel’s Clinic August–October 2022

- Worked with animals (dogs and cats), gained familiarity with veterinary practices, managed clinic operations, and provided client service.

Research Assistant, Prof. Fred Liberast’s Lab, Department of Life Sciences January–April 2022

- Worked with animals (wasps and cockroaches), performed routine lab tasks, and gained familiarity with the research field.

Awards and Honours

- “Lachish” Scholarship of Kraitman School for Excellent Ph.D. Students (2024)
- Summer Scholarship for Outstanding Students Pursuing an Advanced Degree (2024)
- Rector’s List Award (B.Sc., third year, 2023)
- Dean’s List Award (B.Sc., second year, 2023)
- Excellence Certificate (B.Sc., first year, 2022)
- Unit Excellence Award (2020)

Presentations at Conferences

- Poster presentation at BES2024, United Kingdom (December 2024)
- In-person presentation at the Israeli Zoological Society Conference, Israel (December 2024)

Volunteering and Educational Work

Volunteer Educator, "Project Ten" by The Jewish Agency for Israel, Uganda 2020 (Two Months)

- Worked with children through informal education to empower the developing community.

Animal Care Assistant, Colobus Conservation Center, Kenya 2020 (Two Weeks)

- Assisted in care and conservation efforts for primate species in the coastal forest of Diani.

Programming Teacher, Handesaim High School, Herzliya, Israel 2016–2017

- Taught programming to junior high students as part of a “Bagrut” final project for a full academic year.

"Young Teachers" Project – Private Tutor, Community Learning Center, Herzliya, Israel 2015–2017

- Provided private tutoring in mathematics and English to support students in the community.

Publications List

Frydman, N., Freilikhman, S., **Talpaz, I.**, and Pilosof, S. (2023). Practical guidelines and the EMLN R package for handling ecological multilayer networks. *Methods Ecol. Evol.* **14**, 2964–2973. Q1 (Ecological Modeling; Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics), JR: 2.643 (SCImago Journal Rank), IF: 6.65. DOI: 10.1111/2041-210X.14225. 2023