Aparna

Hemidactylus brookii is predominantly distributed in the dry zone of peninsular India. This dry zone broadly consists of patchily distributed rocky out crops on an otherwise continuous and flat terrain. Using molecular phylogenetics I show that Hemidactylus brookii clade consists of at least five species, which are distributed in very different habitats. While two species are human commensal, one is a rock dwelling gecko (rupicolous) and another one is ground dwelling (terrestrial). This provides an interesting system for comparative phylogeographic study across closely related species that differ in their habitat preferences. Through this study I aim to understand how the distribution of suitable habitat affects the phylogeographic structure of an organism in a comparative framework. I also intend to understand the role of humans in the movement of human commensal geckos."