Tali Sarah Berman Elport

Department of Animal Sciences, Hula Research Centre, Tel-Hai Academic College
MIGAL—Galilee Research Institute

Education

2012-2018 Ph.D. Evolutionary and Environmental Biology, University of Haifa

2009-2012 B.Sc. Biology and Environment, University of Haifa - Oranim (with distinction)

Academic Positions

2023-present Senior lecturer,
Department of Animal Sciences, Tel-Hai Academic College,
MIGAL—Galilee Research Institute

Fellowships

2024-present Helmsley Fellow

2022-2023 Agricultural Research Organization – Volcani Center postdoctoral fellowship

2021 Tel Aviv University postdoctoral fellowship

2021 George S. Wise Faculty of Life Sciences postdoctoral fellowship, Tel Aviv University

2019-2020 MIMSHAK Science and Policy fellowship,
Israel Society of Ecology and Environmental Sciences

2018-2019 University of Haifa postdoctoral fellowship

Research funding (as PI or Co-PI)

2022 Chief Scientist Grant, Ministry of Agriculture of Israel
"Viruses as modulators of biological control in beneficial mites" (Co-PI)

2024 German Research Foundation (DFG)
"Deciphering host and symbiont contributions to dietary changes in bugs (Hemiptera, Miridae)" (PI)

Offices in Academic Administration

2025 Head of the Marketing Committee, Department of Animal Science, Tel Hai College

Membership in professional organizations

2012-present The Israel Zoological Society

2012-present The Entomological Society of Israel

Honors and Awards

A. Awards Received After Completion of PhD

2025 Tel-Hai College, Faculty of Life Sciences Award for Excellence in Teaching

B. Awards Received Before Completion of PhD

2017 The Association for the Study of Animal Behavior (ASAB) travel grant for participation in the 35th International Ethological Conference (Behavior 2017 meeting, Estoril, Portugal)

2017 The Zoological Society of Israel travel award for participation in the 35th International Ethological Conference (Behavior 2017 meeting, Estoril, Portugal)

2016 First prize for best Ph.D. lecture in the 35th Conference of The Entomological Society of Israel. Title: 'On the goats' table manners: avoiding ingestion of insect herbivores'

2016 International Society for Behavioral Ecology 2016 travel award for participation in the 16th Congress of the International Society for Behavioral Ecology (University of Exeter, England)

2016 Pick-Melamed foundation travel award for participation in the 16th Congress of the International Society for Behavioral Ecology

2013-2017 University of Haifa President's scholarship for outstanding students

2013-2014 Department of Evolutionary and Environmental Biology Scholarship for excellent students, University of Haifa

2012-2013 Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development Department: sheep and goat research scholarship for postgraduate education research

2012	First prize for poster in the 49th conference of the Israeli Zoological Society (as an undergraduate student). Title: ‘Gas exchange patterns in insects: the role of the head ganglia in neural control’
2011-2012	Department of Biology and Environment: Annual B.Sc. Scholarship for excellent students, University of Haifa – Oranim

Research Talks

2024	The 40th Conference of the Entomological Society of Israel. Hebrew University, Rehovot. Oral presentation: ‘The plant as a site for interactions between insects and large mammalian herbivores’
2024	The 19th Congress of the International Society for Behavioral Ecology (ISBE 24). Melbourne, Australia. Oral presentation: ‘Predatory ungulates: Revealing cryptic interactions between large mammalian herbivores and plant-dwelling arthropods using molecular tools’
2024	The 60th Conference of the Zoological Society of Israel. Open University, Ra’anana. Oral presentation: ‘The dynamics of the fruit-bat gut microbiota under a bacterial antigen challenge’
2023	The 4th Research Workshop of the Israel Science Foundation on "Insect symbiosis: Plasticity in confronting environmental challenges". Hebrew University, Rehovot. Oral presentation: “Viruses as modulators of biological control: Characterizing the virome of the predatory mite, *Phytoseiulus persimilis*”
2022	The 59th Conference of the Zoological Society of Israel. Tel Hai Academic College, Kiryat Shmona. Oral presentation: ‘Revealing cryptic interactions between large mammalian herbivores and plant-dwelling arthropods via DNA metabarcoding’
2022	The 40th Conference of the Entomological Society of Israel. Hebrew University, Rehovot. Oral presentation: ‘Symbiont viruses and biological pest control: the virome of the predatory mite *Phytoseiulus persimilis* (Acari: Phytoseiidae)’
2018	The 55th Conference of the Zoological Society of Israel. Bar-Ilan University. Oral presentation: ‘Encounters between mammal and insect herbivores: ecological mechanisms and consequences’

2018	The 37th Conference of the Entomological Society of Israel. Hebrew University, Rehovot. Oral presentation: ‘Immediate and long-term facilitative effects of cattle grazing on a polyphagous caterpillar’
2017	The 36th Conference of the Entomological Society of Israel. ARO Volcani Center. Oral presentation: ‘Cattle grazing causes a shift in the microbiome of a herbivorous caterpillar’
2017	The 35th International Ethological Conference - Behavior 2017 meeting. Estoril, Portugal. Oral presentation: ‘Table manners matter: how ungulates avoid ingesting insects while feeding’
2016	The 53rd Conference of the Zoological Society of Israel. Hebrew University, Rehovot. Oral presentation: ‘On the goats’ table manners: avoiding ingestion of insect herbivores’
2016	The 35th Conference of the Entomological Society of Israel. Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Oral presentation: ‘On the goats’ table manners: avoiding ingestion of insect herbivores’
2016	The 16th Congress of the International Society for Behavioral Ecology. University of Exeter, England. Oral presentation: ‘The goat’s table manners: avoiding ingestion of herbivore insects’
2015	The 52nd Conference of the Zoological Society of Israel. Ruppin Academic Center. Oral presentation: ‘The hungry caterpillar and the picky goat: direct interactions between mammalian herbivores and Lepidoptera larvae’
2013	The 23rd Annual Memorial Day of Yaakov Golan. ARO Volcani Center. Oral presentation: ‘Direct interactions between goats and insects living on plants’
2012	The 14th Annual Scientific Conference "Research and Creativity". Oranim Academic College. Oral presentation: ‘Gas exchange patterns in insects: the role of the head ganglia in neural control ’
2012	The 49th Conference of the Zoological Society of Israel. Ben Gurion University of the Negev. Poster: ‘Gas exchange patterns in insects: the role of the head ganglia in neural control’
2012	The 31st Conference of the Entomological Society of Israel. Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Oral presentation and poster: ‘Gas exchange patterns in insects: the role of the head ganglia in neural control’

Invited Lectures

2021 The 27th Conference of The Israeli society for the study of grazing sciences. Ohalo College of Education. Topic of lecture: 'The complex interactions between grazing cattle and spring webworm caterpillars'

2020 ILANIT 2020 Conference of the Federation of all the Israel Societies for Experimental Biology (FISEB). Eilat, Israel. Topic of lecture: 'There's a bug in my salad: assessing the ingestion of insects by ungulates using DNA metabarcoding '

2016 Ramat HaNadiv Forum. Ramat HaNadiv nature park, Israel. Topic of lecture: 'On the goats' table manners: avoiding ingestion of insect herbivores '

2014 The 31st Annual Conference of the Lepidopterists Society in Israel. Ramat HaNadiv nature park, Israel. Topic of lecture: 'Goats and caterpillars meet on plants'

Graduate Students Advised

2024-present Dan Szklowin, 'Trophic and microbe-host interactions of migratory insectivorous birds'.

2021-2024 Ro'i Forman, 'Direct effects of mammalian grazing on insect communities'. Co-supervised with Prof. Moshe Inbar, Department of Evolutionary and Environmental Biology, University of Haifa

Undergraduate Project Students Advised

2024-present Barak Ben Harush, "Examining the composition of the microbiome of migrating birds during spring and winter migrations"

2023-2024 Daniella Alpert, "Examining trophic interactions of migratory insect-eating birds in the Hula Valley stopover site using molecular methods"

2017-2018 Noa Messeri, 'How naïve goat kids avoid insect ingestion while feeding'. Co-supervised with Prof. Moshe Inbar, Department of Evolutionary and Environmental Biology, University of Haifa

Post-Doctoral Students

2025-present Dr. Umesh Karipath Pallikandi, “Deciphering host and symbiont contributions to dietary changes in bugs (Hemiptera, Miridae)”

Teaching

2024-present Introduction to Ecology (undergraduate), Departments of Animal Science, Faculty of Sciences and Technology, Tel Hai College

2024 Basic concepts in ecology (undergraduate), Departments of Environmental Sciences, Faculty of Sciences and Technology, Tel Hai College

2024-present 1st-year seminar (undergraduate), Departments of Animal Science, Faculty of Sciences and Technology, Tel Hai College

2024-present Big Questions in Ecology (undergraduate), Departments of Animal Science, Faculty of Sciences and Technology, Tel Hai College

2011-2021 Co-lecturer with Prof. Elah Pick, Molecular Biology (undergraduate), Department of Biology and Environment, University of Haifa- Oranim campus

Additional Scientific Activities

- 2024. Chairman of the session on “Behavior” in the 40th Conference of the Entomological Society of Israel. Hebrew University, Rehovot.
- 2020. Organizer of the Israel Society of Ecology and Environmental Sciences Expert Committee on *Aedes albopictus* Mosquitos in Israel
- 2022. Chairman of the session on “Animal-Plant Interactions” in the 59th Conference of the Zoological Society of Israel. Tel Hai Academic College, Kiryat Shmona
- I served as a reviewer for: Proceedings of the Royal Society B, Molecular Ecology, Microbial Ecology

Publications

Peer-Reviewed Journals

1. **Berman** TS and Inbar M (2025). Can incidental ingestion of plant-dwelling insects nutritionally benefit ungulates? Ecological Processes, 14:31.
2. Forman R, Lalzar M, Inbar M, **Berman** TS (2024). Molecular analysis of feces reveals gastrointestinal nematodes in reintroduced wild asses of the Negev desert. International Journal for Parasitology: Parasites and Wildlife, 100980.
3. **Berman** TS, Barnett-Itzhaki Z, Berman T, Marom E (2023). Antimicrobial resistance in food-producing animals: towards implementing a One Health based national action plan in Israel. Israel Journal of Health Policy Research 12, 18
4. **Berman** TS, Weinberg M, Moreno KR, Czirják GA, Yovel Y (2023). In sickness and in health: The dynamics of the fruit bat gut microbiota under a bacterial antigen challenge and its association with the immune response. Frontiers in Immunology 14: 1152107
5. **Berman** TS, Izraeli Y, Lalzar M, Mozes-Daube N, Lepetit D, Tabic A, Varaldi J, Zchori-Fein E (2023). RNA viruses are prevalent and active tenants of the predatory mite *Phytoseiulus persimilis* (Acari: Phytoseiidae). Microbial Ecology 86, 2060–2072
6. **Berman** TS and Inbar M (2023). Molecular identification of individual and seasonal variation in incidental ingestion of arthropods by free-ranging goats. Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution 10:1070088
7. **Berman** TS and Inbar M (2022). Revealing cryptic interactions between large mammalian herbivores and plant-dwelling arthropods via DNA metabarcoding. Ecology 103(1), e03548. Highlighted in the Bulletin of the Ecological Society of America. 103(1):1-4
8. **Berman** TS, Glasser TA, Inbar M (2019). Goats adjust their feeding behaviour to avoid the ingestion of different insect species. Canadian Journal of Zoology 97: 805–811
9. **Berman** TS, Messeri N, Glasser TA, Inbar M (2019). Innate ability of goats to sense and avoid ingestion of noxious insects while feeding. Royal Society Open Science 6:181078
10. **Berman** TS, Laviad-Shitrit S, Ofek-Lalzar M, Halpern M, Inbar M (2018). Cascading effects on bacterial communities: Cattle grazing causes a shift in the microbiome of a herbivorous caterpillar. ISME Journal 12:1952-1963

11. **Berman** TS, Ben-Ari M, Henkin Z, Inbar M (2018). Immediate and long-term facilitative effects of cattle grazing on a polyphagous caterpillar. Agriculture, Ecosystems & Environment 261:45-53
12. **Berman** TS, Ben-Ari M, Glasser TA, Gish M, Inbar M (2017). How goats avoid ingesting noxious insects while feeding. Scientific Reports 7.1:14835. Selected as one of the top 100 read ecology papers for Scientific Reports in 2017
13. **Berman** TS, Ayali A, Gefen E (2013). Neural control of gas exchange patterns in insects: locust density-dependent phases as a test case. PLOS One 29;8(3):e59967
14. Pick E, **Berman** TS (2013). Formation of alternative proteasomes: Same lady, different cap? FEBS letters 1;587(5):389-93

Thesis

- 2018. **Berman** TS. 'The prevalent and complex interactions between mammalian and insect herbivores'. PhD Dissertation, Department of Evolutionary and Environmental Biology, Faculty of Natural Sciences, University of Haifa

Reports

1. **Berman** Elport T, Van der Hal N, Krigel K, Boulogne O, Behar A, Berman T, Gottlieb Y, Weinberg T, Zagron G, Zask A, Milo R, Milstein D, Stambler N, Sarfati M and Levi A. *Aedes albopictus* mosquito – Mapping public health risks, mosquito monitoring, available solutions and public awareness – Experts' opinion. The Israel Society of Ecology and Environmental Sciences pp.38
2. **Berman** TS (2021). Enhancing antimicrobial stewardship in veterinary medicine in Israel: Literature review, regulatory processes and recommendations for action. Ministry of Health
3. **Berman** TS and Krigel K (2020). Health and Climate Change: literature review and recommendations for preparedness and adaptation. Ministry of Environmental Protection
4. **Berman** TS (2020). Climate change. Environmental Health in Israel 2020. Environment and Health Fund and Ministry of Health