CV – Merav Vonshak (Weinstein)

Name	Merav Vonshak (Weinstein)
Address (office)	Department of Zoology
	Tel-Aviv University 69978
	Tel-Aviv, Israel
	Tel. #972-3-6409024
	Fax. #972-3-6406991
	e-mail: meravwei@post.tau.ac.il
	http://www.tau.ac.il/lifesci/zoology/members/dayan_files/merav.html
(home)	14 Alexander Yanai St., Tel-Aviv.

Date of birth	10 July, 1977
Place of birth	Tel Aviv, Israel
Military service	1996-1997 (photographer and editor in the army's newspaper – "Bamachane")
Languages	Hebrew (mother tongue), English (fluent), French (spoken), Spanish (spoken)

Education:

2010-	Post-doctorate fellow, Department of Biology, Stanford University, CA, USA
2009-2010	Post-doctorate fellow, Department of Zoology, Tel-Aviv University, Israel
2003-2009	Ph.D., Department of Zoology, Tel-Aviv University. **Thesis entitled:** Invasive and alien ant species in Israel – aspects of their biogeography, ecology and behavior (under the supervision of Prof. Tamar Dayan and Prof. Abraham Hefetz)
2001-2003	M.Sc., Ecology and Environmental Quality, Department of Zoology, Tel-Aviv University (*Magna cum laude*) **Thesis entitled:** Spiny arthropods, spiny parasites and spiny mice – availability and ecology in En Gedi (under the supervision of Prof. Tamar Dayan and Dr. Noga Kronfeld-Schor)
1998-2001	B.Sc., Life sciences, Tel-Aviv University.

Teaching and instructing experience:

2001-2007	Laboratory coordinator and teaching assistant (Insect Faunistics), Department of Zoology, Tel Aviv University.
2004-2007	Creating and maintaining a web site for Insect Faunistics course, Department of Zoology, Tel Aviv University.
2001-	Guide, Nature Campus, I. Meier Segals Garden for Zoological Research, Department of Zoology, Tel Aviv University.
2006-2007	Supervising an undergraduate student in research project, Faculty of Life Sciences, Tel Aviv University: the impact of the little fire ant on the fauna in its invasive range in Israel.
2002	Developing a teaching program on invertebrate and vertebrate characteristics for

	"Nature Campus", I. Meier Segals Garden for Zoological Research, Department of Zoology, Tel Aviv University.
2001-2003	Teaching assistant (Insect Anatomy), Department of Zoology, Tel Aviv University

Employment:

2001-	Guide, "Nature Campus", I. Meier Segals Garden for Zoological Research, Department of Zoology, Tel Aviv University.
2000-2005	Assistant in Tel Aviv University's natural history museum, taking care of the live arthropod collection.
1997-2000	Editor, nature and environment reporter in the Israeli edition of the National Geographic Magazine.
1998-1999	Research assistant in the research: "The role of learning in the communication between bird nestlings and their parents", Prof. Arnon Lotem's lab, Tel-Aviv University.

Membership in professional societies:

2000-	Adam Tevah V'din – The Israel Union for Environmental Defense
2001-	The Zoological Society of Israel
2005-	The Entomological Society of Israel
2005-	The Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel
2007-	The Society for Conservation Biology

Fellowships and awards:

2001-2003	M.Sc. fellowship, Department of Zoology, George S. Wise Faculty of Life Sciences Tel Aviv University
2003-2008	Doctoral fellowship, Department of Zoology, George S. Wise Faculty of Life Sciences, Tel Aviv University
2004	Herman Leon Award for Excellence in teaching and research
2005	The Adessman travel grant for field and laboratory research in Spain, Department of Zoology, Tel-Aviv University
2006	The Adessman travel grant for active participation in an international conference, Department of Zoology, Tel-Aviv University
2006	The Anat Krauskopf Fund Travel Award, for active participation in an international conference, Faculty Life Science, Tel-Aviv University
2006	Lena Dentziger Award for Excellence in teaching and research
2006	"Rieger" Foundation Award for outstanding environmental study
2007	"Rieger" Foundation Award for outstanding environmental study
2009-2010	Postdoctoral Fellowship, Department of Zoology, Tel-Aviv University, supported by "VATAT" (Planning and Budgeting Committee of The Council for Higher Education in Israel)
2010-	Vaadia-BARD Postdoctoral Fellowship, The United States-Israel Binational Agricultural Research and Development Fund

Professional travel:

2009 Participating in the ant course, Southwest Research Station, Portal, Arizona, USA

2008 Field work in French Guyana with Arnaud Estoup, Julien Foucaud and Jérôme Orivel as part of thermotolerance experiments project.

2006 Molecular analysis of Israel and Floridian *Wasmannia auropunctata* samples in CBGP – Centre de Biologie et de Gestion des Populations, Campus international de Baillarguet, Montferrier-sur-Lez, France, working with Julien Foucaud and Arnaud Estoup.

2006 Field and laboratory work in the Center for Medical, Agricultural, and Veterinary Entomology (CMAVE), Imported Fire Ant and Household Insects research unit in Gainesville, Florida, working with Dr. Sanford Porter and Prof. Robert K. Vander Meer.

2005 Field and laboratory work in Spain, at Estación Biológica de Doñana, Sevilla, working with Dr. Raphaël Boulay and Prof. Xim Cerda, and a project on the cuticular hydrocarbons of the argentine ant.

2002 Learning to identify parasites' eggs with Prof. Jerzy Behnke, School of Biology, University of Nottingham, Nottingham, UK.

Active Participation in Scientific Conferences:

2003 The 40th Annual Meeting of the Zoological Society of Israel, Sede Boqer, Israel

2004 Biological Invasions in Israeli ecosystems Conference, Ben Gurion University, Israel.

2005 The 24th Annual Meeting of the Entomological Society of Israel, The Agricultural Research Organization (ARO), the research arm of the Israel Ministry of Agriculture, Bet Dagan.

2006 The Seventh Symposium in Memory of Merav Ziv – "The Role of Invertebrates in Ecosystem Function and Services", Blaustein Institute for Desert Research, Ben Gurion University.

2006 The 34th Annual Meeting of the Israel Society for Ecology and Environmental Quality Sciences, Haifa, Israel.

2006 The 15th IUSSI's (International Union for the Study of Social Insects) Annual Meeting, Washington DC, USA.

2006 The 25th Annual Meeting of the Entomological Society of Israel, Faculty of Agricultural, Food and Environmental Quality Sciences, The Hebrew University, Rehovot.

2006 The 43rd Annual Meeting of the Zoological Society of Israel, Ra'anana, Israel

2007 The 35th Annual Meeting of the Israel Society for Ecology and Environmental Quality Sciences, Haifa, Israel.

2007 The 26th Annual Meeting of the Entomological Society of Israel, Faculty of Agricultural, Food and Environmental Quality Sciences, The Hebrew University, Rehovot.

2008 The 23rd International Congress of Entomology, Durban, South Africa.

2008 The 4th European Meeting of the IUSSI (International Union for the Study of Social Insects), La Roche en Ardenne, Belgium.

2008 The 27th Annual Meeting of the Entomological Society of Israel, Oranim Academic College, Oranim (poster).

2008 The 45rd Annual Meeting of the Zoological Society of Israel, Michmoret, Israel (poster).

2009 The Tenth Symposium in Memory of Merav Ziv – "Animal Behavior and Conservation Biology", Blaustein Institute for Desert Research, Ben Gurion University.

2009 The 28th Annual Meeting of the Entomological Society of Israel, Tel Aviv University, Tel Aviv (Invited to chair a session on invasive insects in Israel).

Invited lectures and seminars:

2005 Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel, Course for guides, "Nature Campus", Tel Aviv University (two lectures entitled: "Invertebrate and arthropod characteristics", and a tour in Tel Aviv University's Botanic Gardens).

2005 "Ants as a pest in human environments", a lecture in the course "Insects as pests", Plant Protection and Inspection Services (PPIS), Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Israel.

2006 Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel, Course for guides, "Nature Campus", Tel Aviv University (two lectures entitled: "Arthropod and ant characteristics", and a tour in Tel Aviv University's Botanic Gardens).

2006 "Ants as a pest in human environments", a lecture in the course "Insects as pests", Plant Protection and Inspection Services (PPIS), Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Israel.

2006 "The little fire ant in Israel", a lecture in a pest control conference, Acre.

2006 "The little fire ant in Israel – a new invasive species and its implications", a lecture in: "The little fire ant – dealing with a new invasive species" – a meeting in the Jordan Valley regional council, convened by the Ministry of Environmental Protection.

2007 "The little fire ant (*Wasmannia auropunctata*) in Israel – biogeography, ecology and behavior", a seminar lecture in the Department of Entomology, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Rehovot.

2007 "Invasive ants as humans' pests – the case of the little fire ant in Israel", the annual pest control symposium 2006, Pardes Hana.

2007 "The little fire ant in Israel – a new invasive species and its implications", a lecture in: "Eradicating the little fire ant – concluding 2006 and looking forward to 2007" – a meeting in the Jordan Valley regional council, convened by the Ministry of Environmental Protection.

2008 "The little fire ant's impact on spiders in its invasive range" – a lecture in the third

annual meeting of the Israeli arachnological group, Ramat Hanadiv.

2008 "On ants and invasive ants", A lecture at the Toxic and Poisonous animal course at Kibbutzim College of Education, Tel Aviv.

2008 "Invasive species and the little fire ant in Israel", a lecture given to the Israel Nature and National Parks authority, pest control personal.

2009 Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel, Course for guides, "Nature Campus", Tel Aviv University (two lectures entitled: "Taxonomy and arthropods' and ants' characteristics", and a tour in Tel Aviv University's Botanic Gardens).

2009 "Invasive and alien ant species in Israel – aspects of their biogeography, ecology and behavior", a seminar lecture in the Department of Ecology, The Jacob Blaustein Institutes for Desert Research, Ben-Gurion University, Midreshet Ben-Gurion.

2009 "Invasive species and the little fire ant in Israel", a lecture given to the Ministry of Environmental Protection, pest control unit, Jerusalem.

2009 "Diversity of native and alien ants in Israel", the 1st symposium on Israeli ants biology and eradication, the Ministry of Environmental Protection, Pardes Hana

2009 "Invasive species and the little fire ant in Israel", a lecture in a regional pest control conference, the Ministry of Environmental Protection, Tel Aviv

2009 "Invasive and alien ant species in Israel – aspects in their biogeography, ecology and behavior", a seminar lecture in the Department of Biology, University of Copenhagen, Denmark

2009 "Invasive ant species in Israel, with a focus on little fire ant", a lecture given to the scientific committee, the Israel Nature and National Parks authority, Jerusalem

2009 "Dealing with a new invasive species – the case of the little fire ant in Israel". A lecture given in the course Biodiversity Law & Policy, Tel Aviv University

2009 "Invasive insects in Israel: a situation report", an introduction lecture at the 28th Annual Meeting of the Entomological Society of Israel, Tel Aviv University.

2010 "Invasive species, invasive insects and the little fire ant", a lecture at the Social Insect course, at Kibbutzim College of Education, Tel Aviv.

2010 "The little fire ant and the institutional challenge in Israel", a lecture in "Invasive Species Convention", for the Society of the Protection of Nature in Israel, Tel Aviv.

2010 "The little fire ant and the institutional challenge in Israel", a lecture given in the course Biodiversity Law & Policy, Tel Aviv University.

Acted as a reviewer for:

Biological Invasions

List of publications

Thesis:

M.Sc. **Weinstein, M.** (2003) Spiny arthropods, spiny parasites and spiny mice – availability and ecology in En Gedi (in Hebrew, English summary). Tel Aviv University.

Ph.D. **Vonshak, M**. (2009) Invasive and alien ant species in Israel – aspects of their biogeography, ecology and behavior. (in Hebrew, English summary). Tel Aviv University.

Manuscripts:

Peer reviewed journals:

Vonshak, M., Dayan, T. and Kronfeld-Schor, N. (2009) Arthropods as food resource for two competing spiny mice species: Diel, seasonal, and spatial availability. Journal of Arid Environments, 73: 458-462.

Vonshak, M., Dayan, T. Foucaud, J., Estoup, A. and Hefetz, A. (2009) The interplay between genetic and environmental effects on colony insularity in the clonal invasive little fire ant *Wasmannia auropunctata*. Behavioral Ecology and Sociobiology, 63 (11): 1667-1677. DOI: 10.1007/s00265-009-0775-9

Vonshak, **M.**, Dayan, T., Ionescu-Hirsch, A., Friedberg, A. and Hefetz A. The little fire ant *Wasmannia auropunctata*: a new invasive species in the Middle East and its impact on the local arthropod fauna. Biological Invasions (in press). DOI: 10.1007/s10530-009-9593-2

Foucaud, J., J. Orivel, A. Loiseau, J. H. C. Delabie, B. Gerber1, H. Jourdan1, **M. Vonshak**, M. Tindo, J.-L. Mercier, J.-B. Mikissa, T. McGlynn, T. Thompson, S. Mikheyev, J. Oettler and A. Estoup. Worldwide invasion by the little fire ant: routes of introduction and eco-evolutionary pathways. Accepted for publication in Evolutionary Applications.

Submitted manuscripts:

Vonshak, M. and Ionescu-Hirsch, A. A checklist of the ants of Israel (Hymenoptera: Formicidae). Submitted to Israel Journal of Entomology.

Vonshak, M. and Shlagman, A. A *Camponotus fellah* queen sets a record for Israeli ant longevity. Submitted to Israel Journal of Entomology.

Manuscripts in preparation:

Vonshak, **M.**, Dayan, T. and Hefetz A. Long term aggressive interactions and mechanisms of competitive displacement by the little fire ant *Wasmannia auropunctata*.

Vonshak, **M.**, Dayan, T. and Hefetz A. The invasive myrmecofauna of Israel: an expanding problem.

Abstracts:

Weinstein, M. (2004). Characterizing an arthropod community in relation to spiny mouse diets. Israel Journal of Zoology 50 (1): 124.

Weinstein, M. (2005). Alien and invasive ants in Israel, in: Biological Invasions in Israeli Ecosystems. Abstract booklet (in Hebrew), Ben Gurion University, Israel.

Vonshak, M. (2005). "Alien and invasive ants in Israel", in The 24th Annual Meeting of the Entomological Society of Israel, Abstract booklet (in Hebrew), Volcani Center, Israel.

Vonshak, M. (2005) Invasive and Alien Ant Species in Israel. Phytoparasitica 34(4): 380.

Vonshak, M., Dayan, T. & Hefetz, A. (2006). "The little fire ant (*Wasmannia auropunctata*) in Israel", in the Seventh Symposium in Memory of Merav Ziv – "The Role of Invertebrates in Ecosystem Function and Services". Abstract booklet, Blaustein Institute for Desert Research, Ben Gurion University.

Vonshak, **M.** Hefetz, A. & Dayan, T. (2006) "The little fire ant (*Wasmannia auropunctata*) in Israel – biogeographical and ecological aspects of a new invasive species", Proceedings of the 34th Annual Meeting of the Israel Society for Ecology and Environmental Quality Sciences, Haifa University. Israel Journal of Ecology and Evolution 52 (2): 201.

Vonshak, M., Dayan, T. & Hefetz, A. (2006) "Unicoloniality in the little fire ant *Wasmannia auropunctata* in Israel", in the proceedings of the 15th IUSSI's (International Union for the Study of Social Insects) Annual Meeting, Washington DC, USA.

Vonshak, **M.** Hefetz, A. & Dayan, T. (2007) "First evidence to the little fire ant's impact on local fauna in Israel". Israel Journal of Entomology 37: 401.

Vonshak, **M.** Hefetz, A. & Dayan, T. (2006) "What makes a good invasive species? The case of the little fire ant's (*Wasmannia auropunctata*) invasion in Israel". Israel Journal of Ecology and Evolution (in press).

Vonshak, M., Dayan, T. & Hefetz, A. (2007) "The little fire ant's impact on arthropod fauna in its invasive range in Israel". Israel Journal of Ecology and Evolution (in press).

Vonshak, **M.** Hefetz, A. & Dayan, T. (2008) "The little fire ant's impact on other ants' species". Israel Journal of Entomology, 38: 161.

Vonshak, M., Dayan, T. & Hefetz, A. (2008) "*Wasmannia auropunctata*'s impact on local ant species in its invasive range". Proceedings of the 23rd International Congress of Entomology, Durban, South Africa.

Vonshak, M., Dayan, T. & Hefetz, A. (2008) "The ecological consequences of ant invasion: The impact of Wasmannia auropunctata on ant species diversity in its invasive range". Proceedings of the 4th European Meeting of the IUSSI

(International Union for the Study of Social Insects), La Roche en Ardenne, Belgium.

Vonshak, **M.**, Sarfaty, H., Dayan, T. & Hefetz, A. (2008) "Cats and dogs as bioindicators to locate little fire ant's infestations". Israel Journal of Entomology (in press).

Vonshak, **M.**, Sarfaty, H., Dayan, T. & Hefetz, A. (2008) "Using cats and dogs as bioindicators to locate little fire ant's infestations" Israel Journal of Ecology and Evolution (in press).

Vonshak, M., Dayan, T. & Hefetz, A. (2009). "Competitive displacement mechanisms by the little fire ant", in the Tenth Symposium in Memory of Merav Ziv – "Animal Behavior and Conservation Biology". Abstract booklet, Blaustein Institute for Desert Research, Ben Gurion University.