

# Adam Vanbergen – *Curriculum Vitae*

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*Nationality:* British  
*Date of birth:* 15 February 1971  
*Appointed CEH:* 1/10/1998  
*Years at band 6:* 5

## Profile

My research interests are broad focussing on evolutionary ecology, trophic interactions, food webs and the relationship between biodiversity and ecosystem processes. I focus on multi-trophic interactions to examine the role of anthropogenic heterogeneity (fragmentation, intensification) in shaping diversity and performance at higher trophic levels directly (herbivores) and indirectly (predators, parasites) connected to plants. I am interested in how anthropogenic disturbance at a range of scales from habitats to landscapes impact on invertebrate food web and community structure both aboveground (beetles, pollinators) and belowground (soil fauna); and the consequences of anthropogenic biodiversity change for ecosystem functions and services.

## Education

2002–2006, part-time PhD, CEH & Cardiff University, Thesis title: 'Landscape to host-plant scales: bottom-up heterogeneity affects invertebrate diversity & interactions'. Awarded October 2006.  
1995–1998: BSc (Hons) (First Class) Environmental Biology, University of Greenwich, London.  
1993-1994: part-time A-level Environmental Science (Grade B), Lewes Tertiary College, East Sussex  
1982–1989: Beacon Comprehensive, East Sussex, 2 A-levels, 6 GCE O-levels

## Work experience and projects

### 2008-2012 Director & Trustee of the British Ecological Society (BES).

Seat on the BES Council and on the grants, publications, and education sub-committees.

### Invertebrate Ecologist CEH NERC Band 6 2003-present

2009-2012 Supervising PhD on project examining the role of an invasive plant (Himalayan balsam) in shaping interactions between native plants and pollinators

2008-2011 Supervising PhD on project examining the role of belowground communities in shaping aboveground interactions mediated by changes in plant chemistry

2008-2009 PI on BES Small Ecological Project Grant, this will examine how agricultural modification of natural birch forest affects pollinator networks and bee-parasitoid interactions.

2008 – 2010 PI on CEH Environmental Change Integrating Fund: 'Multi-functional land-use options to deliver above- and below-ground ecosystem services' which aims to investigate how extensification of land use affect the provision of above- and below-ground ecosystem function and supporting services.

2007-2008 Co-investigator on multi-site experiment operated within EU AlterNet FP6 Network of Excellence to assess impact of a single disturbance on plant community structure across different biomes and climates.

2007-2008 PI on CEH Science Budget project titled GOBLIN (Grazing effects on birch woodland invertebrates) which aims to understand the consequences of introducing cattle to birch woods for soil food-web complexity and ecosystem processes.

2006-2007 PI on CEH Science Budget project titled THISTLE which demonstrated the indirect impact of introducing cattle to birch woods for host-parasitoid interactions and predatory insect diversity.

2003-2004 Co-researcher investigator on BES funded project (MILES) led by Dr R. J. Mitchell examining cascading effects of invasion of heather moor by birch trees for plant-soil communities and soil chemistry. I provided ecological and taxonomic expertise on soil micro-arthropod diversity.

### Invertebrate Ecologist CEH NERC Band 7 1998-2003

2000-2003 Co-researcher investigator on EU FP5 project titled Biodiversity assessment tools (BIOASSESS) which aimed at determining the response of different taxa to landscape structure and their indicator properties for monitoring purposes. I co-ordinated the UK partner (CEH, BTO, NHM) collaboration, UK data collection on carabid beetles, butterflies and soil fauna, and public liaison.

1998-2001 Research assistant on NERC EDGE grant (Pathogen variability & dynamics in insect populations) aiming to examine the ecological dynamics that drive & maintain genotypic diversity of an entomopathogen of the pine beauty moth. I carried out experiments which showed that differences in diet among pine beauty moth populations affected the performance of interacting viral genotypes.

1998-2001 Research assistant on CEH Integrating fund project (Population dynamics of fragmented plant-insect communities) aiming to assess the role of Winter moth local adaptation and natural enemy interactions in the population dynamics on different host plants. I carried out experiments that revealed habitat associations influenced population performance and interactions with invertebrate and viral natural enemies.

### **Research assistant (voluntary)**

1997 Frontier-Tanzania Forest Research Programme. Rapid biodiversity assessment of a tropical dry forest reserve (Manga Forest, Tanga Region, Tanzania).

1996 Sea Turtle Protection Society, Zakynthos, Greece. Monitoring of loggerhead turtle populations.

### **Supervision and line management experience**

Supervisor: Cathy Fiedler PhD student, 2009-2012, University of Leeds

Supervisor: Lynne Robinson PhD student, 2008-2011, University of Sussex

Mentor: Aidan Keith, PhD student, 2003-2007 University of Aberdeen

Supervisor: Maria Hardy, MSc in Ecology, 2001, University of Aberdeen.

Line manager (50%): Chris Andrews Band 7 Scientific Officer, CEH, 2008– present

Line manager (100%): Fiona Grant, Band 8 Scientific Officer, CEH, 2007– present

Line manager: Lynne Robinson – sandwich student CEH 2006-2007

Line manager: Adam Boulton – sandwich student CEH 2005-2006

Line manager: Darren Edwards – sandwich student CEH 2004-2005

Field team manager of 10 CEH & NHM personnel summer 2001 & 2002

### **Public Awareness of Science**

2008 "If you go down to the woods today...how do grazing cows affect birch wood ecosystems?"

Planet Earth Article. Winter edition P 26-27.

2006: Presented results of THISTLE project to high-school staff & students, Banchory Academy

2004: Presentation to Scottish Ranger Service context and findings of *The Biodiversity Assessment Tools Project (BIOASSESS)*

2003: Organised Stakeholder seminar for farmers, foresters, land owners, conservation agencies to communicate context and findings of *The Biodiversity Assessment Tools Project (BIOASSESS)*

### **Teaching experience and seminars**

2008 SCRI Seminar: *Plants shape trophic diversity and interactions: from host-plants to landscape scales*

2007 CEH Statistics Workshop: presentation to PhD students on REML and Generalised linear mixed models

2005 LECTURED to MSc students, Aberdeen University, *Consequences for host-parasitoid interactions of grazing-dependent habitat heterogeneity*

### **Development activities and courses**

2008 PhD supervision workshop (CEH & QML)

2008 Managing projects (JTS)

2008 Communicating science to the public (JTS)

2007 Performance appraisal and management (JTS)

2007 Nematode Identification and Ecology Course (Residential, Wageningen University)

2002-2006 Part-time PhD CEH & Cardiff University (NERC)

2003 ArcGIS: introductory course (BGS NERC)

2002 Regression and Curve fitting (BIOSS)

2002 Advanced Regression techniques (BIOSS)

2002 Scientific writing (JTS)

2001 Use of REML (BIOSS)

2000 Minitab: ANOVA, Linear regression and Graphical applications (CEH)