

Anurag's Brief Biography



Dr. Anurag Agrawal is the James Perkins Endowed Chair in Environmental Studies at Cornell University. He obtained both a bachelors (Biology) and masters (Conservation Biology) degree from the University of Pennsylvania and worked with the renowned tropical ecologist, Daniel Janzen. In 1999 he earned a PhD in Population Biology from the University of California, Davis. A year later he started as an assistant professor at the University of Toronto in the former Department of Botany, and since 2004 he is Professor in the Department of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology and Department of Entomology at Cornell. Anurag lectures widely to professionals and the public, he has won numerous awards including the highest honors from several academic societies focused on biology, plant science, entomology, and ecology. Anurag teaches undergraduate and graduate courses at Cornell in Ecology, Field Biology, and Chemical Interactions. His research melds questions on the ecology and evolution of interactions between wild plants and their insect pests, including aspects of community interactions, chemical ecology, coevolution, and the entire monarch life-cycle. Integrating natural history, bold scientific theories, and interacting with diverse scientists, from students to citizens, is his passion.

Anurag's *Monarchs and Milkweeds*, Princeton Univ. Press, published in 2017

Winner of a 2017 *National Outdoor Book Award* in Nature and Environment

One of **Forbes.com's 10 Best** Biology Books of 2017

"Epic is the only word to describe the annual journey of monarch butterflies... Agrawal's splendid book is no less epic, taking us from heart toxins and sodium pumps to climate change and illegal logging. This is important science about an iconic and sadly declining insect, made readable by enthusiastic, personal prose." - **BBC Wildlife Magazine**

"Agrawal's book is a detailed exploration of just about everything about monarchs: sex lives, dining habits, internal flight guidance and, in particular, their coevolving-but-competitive relationship with milkweed." - **Washington Post**

"The book reads like a novel at times, with Agrawal acting as a storyteller and weaving together his extensive knowledge of monarchs and milkweed, as well as the people behind various related scientific discoveries. His style of writing is humorous, insightful, and most importantly, accessible." - **Ecology**

"Anurag Agrawal, a world-class scientist, tells the monarch-milkweed coevolution story in a brilliant, readable book--one that underlines the vast improvement of our understanding of the living world during the last half-century." - **Paul Ehrlich, author of *The Annihilation of Nature***

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