

Dr. M. B. Govinda Rajulu

Assistant Director

Vivekananda Institute of Tropical Mycology (VINSTROM),
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PERSONAL INFORMATION

Date of birth : 14.06.1978

Nationality : Indian

Community : General Turn (OC)

Address : 'A' Type, 6/161, Sidco Nagar
Villivakkam
Chennai 600 049
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Phone: 9841798340

EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION:

Ph.D.	Botany	2011	University of Madras	Commended
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Title of thesis:

Ecology and biotechnological potential of endophytic fungi of a dry thorn forest

M. Phil.	Botany	2004	University of Madras	72.0%
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Title of M. Phil Dissertation:

A study of fungal endophytes of *C. annuum*. L.

M.Sc.	Botany	2002	Annamalai University	64.2%
B.Sc.	Botany	1999	University of Madras	59.4%

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Worked as an Assistant Professor from June 2016 to March 2017: Department of Plant Biology and Biotechnology, Shree Chandrababhu Jain College, Minjur, Chennai

RESOURCE PERSON:

- Hands on training for research students of Bangalore Agriculture University on isolation and characterization of endophytes, 10-12, December 2019.

RESEARCH GRANT

- 2021-2024 – Principal Investigator, Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB), Department of Science and Technology (Government of India), research grant for the project **“Exploration of Fungal endosymbionts of marine sponges of Lakshadweep Archipelago for Diversity and Technological Applications”** under Core Research Grant-File No. CRG/2021/001117 –(Rs. 26,20,358/-)
- 2022-2025 –Co-Principal Investigator, Ministry of Environment and forests, Government of India, research grant for the project **“Diversity of fungal endophytes of mangroves of western and eastern India (old title: An exploration of the mangroves of the Eco-Sensitive Zone of Bhadrak wildlife division (Odisha) for their fungal endophyte diversity.** F.No. 19-46/2020/RE(Rs.23,28,200/-). The project will be completed on 13/03/2025.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE:

- Working as Assistant Director from March 2019 to till date at Vivekananda Institute of Tropical Mycology, RKM Vidyapith, Chennai.
- Worked as a Research Associate from November 2018 to March 2019 at Vivekananda Institute of Tropical Mycology, RKM Vidyapith, Chennai.
- Worked as a Research Scholar from July 2017 to October 2018: Department of Biotechnology, Government of India, funded project on **“A study of the biodiversity and bioactive natural products of non-sporulating fungi associated with mangroves and sponges of Andaman Islands”** under the guidance of Dr. T.S. Suryanarayanan, Director, Vivekananda Institute of Tropical Mycology, RKM Vidyapith, Chennai
- Worked as a Research Associate from May 2015 to May 2016: Department of Biotechnology, Government of India, funded project on **“Estimation of the diversity of endophytes in subtropical forest of Arunachal Pradesh and creation of a genetic**

resource” under the guidance of Dr. T.S. Suryanarayanan, Director, Vivekananda Institute of Tropical Mycology, RKM Vidyapith, Chennai.

- Three years experience as a Research Associate from March 2011 to February 2014: Department of Biotechnology, Government of India, funded project on “**The potential of fungal endophytes as biocontrol organisms**” under the guidance of Dr. T.S. Suryanarayanan, Director, Vivekananda Institute of Tropical Mycology, RKM Vidyapith, Chennai.
- Two and half years experience as a Senior Research Fellow (January 2008- May 2010) in Department of Biotechnology, Government of India, funded project on “**Enzymes of pharmaceutical importance from tropical microfungi**” under the guidance of Dr. T.S. Suryanarayanan, RKM Vivekananda College. During my tenure as a SRF in this Indo-German project, learnt the techniques of chitinase and chitosanases of endophytes trained for nine months in the laboratory of Prof. Bruno Moerschbacher, University of Muenster, Germany.
- Two years experience as a Junior Research Fellow (August 2005- December 2007) in Department of Biotechnology, Government of India, funded project on “**Screening of tropical fungal endophytes for novel secondary metabolites**” under the guidance of Dr. T.S. Suryanarayanan, RKM Vivekananda College.
- Worked for M. Phil under the guidance of Dr. V. Muruganandam, RKM Vivekananda College (2003-2004)
- Life time member in Mycological society of India from 2016 onwards

PUBLICATIONS:

1. David L. Hawksworth, Patricia E.J. Wiltshire, K. Anupama, **M.B. Govinda Rajulu**, N. Thirunavukkarasu, S. Prasad, Kevin J. Edwards, T.S. Suryanarayanan, 2026. Beyond the dung heap: The reliability of spores of the ascomycete fungal genus *Sporormiella* (incl. *Preussia*) as a proxy indicator of dung and grazing animals, Review of Palaeobotany and Palynology, 105657, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.revpalbo.2026.105657>.
2. Suryanarayanan, T.S., Ravishankar, J.P., Thirunavukkarasu, N. and **Govinda Rajulu, M.B.**, 2025. Using fungi to combat drug-resistant *Candida*: Methods to increase the

- possibility and reduce the cost and time for finding new antifungal compounds. *APMIS*, **133**: e70079. <https://doi.org/10.1111/apm.70079>
3. Suryanarayanan, T.S., Rajamani, T., Aro, N., Borisova, A., Marjamaa, K. and **Govindarajulu**, M.B., 2024. Fungal endophytes and leaf litter fungi as sources of novel inhibitor-resistant cellulase for biofuel production: a basic study. *3 Biotech* **14**: 243. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13205-024-04087-3>
 4. Suryanarayanan TS, **Govindarajulu**, MB, Murali TS, Ravishankar JP, Bharathwaj S. and Kalaivasan MD, 2024. *Amorosa littoralis* Mantle & D. Hawksw. survives as root endophyte of mangroves and produces water soluble melanin pigment. *Fungal Biology* **128**: 1954–1959. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.funbio.2024.06.001>
 5. **Govinda Rajulu MB**, Rajamani T, Murali TS, Suryanarayanan TS, Dairick Minj (2022) The fungal endobiome of seaweeds of the Andaman Islands. *Current Science* **123**:1508-1514. <https://doi.org/10.18520/cs/v123/i12/1508-1514>
 6. **Govinda Rajulu MB**, Suryanarayanan TS, Murali TS, Thirunavukkarasu N and Venkatesan. G. (2021). Minor species of foliar fungal endophyte communities: do they matter? *Mycological Progress* 20: 1353–1363. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11557-021-01740-6>
 7. Rajamani T, **Govinda Rajulu MB**, Murali TS, Suryanarayanan TS (2021). Unusual thermal resistance of spores of mesophilic fungi. *Asian Journal of Mycology* **4**: 1–9. <https://doi.org/10.5943/ajom/4/1/1>
 8. **Govinda Rajulu MB**, Thirunavukkarasu N, Shravanakumar SS, Tanveer Kaur, Reddy MS, Suryanarayanan TS (2020). Endolichenic fungi of some lichens of the Western Ghats. *Planta Medica* **86**: 960-966. <https://doi.org/10.1055/a-1045-1989> (IF: 3.352)
 9. Suryanarayanan TS, Devarajan PT, Girivasan KP, **Govinda Rajulu MB**, Kumaresan V, Murali TS, Rajamani T, Thirunavukkarasu N and Venkatesan G (2018) The host range

- of multi-host endophytic fungi. *Current Science* **115**:1963-1969. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/26978531> (IF : 0.88)
10. Suryanarayanan TS, **Govinda Rajulu MB** and Vidal S (2018). Biological control through fungal endophytes: Gaps in knowledge hindering success. *Current Biotechnology* **7**: 185-198. <https://doi.org/10.2174/2211550105666160504130322>
 11. Thirunavukkarasu, N., Suryanarayanan, T.S., Rajamani, T. and **Govinda Rajulu MB**. (2017) Diversity and technological potential of fungi from solar salterns of southern India. *Kavaka* **48**: 26-32.
 12. Suryanarayanan TS, **Govinda Rajulu MB**, Rajamani T, Tripathi M and Joshi Y (2017). Endolichenic fungi in lichens of Champawat district, Uttarakhand, northern India. *Mycological Progress* **16**: 205-211. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11557-016-1268-7> (IF : 1.914)
 13. Reddy MS, Murali TS, Suryanarayanan TS, **Govinda Rajulu MB** and Thirunavukkarasu N (2016). *Pestalotiopsis* species occur as generalist endophytes in trees of Western Ghats forests of southern India. *Fungal Ecology* **24**: 70–75. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.funeco.2016.09.002> (IF : 3.219)
 14. **Govinda Rajulu MB**, Suryanarayanan TS, Tangjang S (2016). Endophytic fungi of orchids of Arunachal Pradesh, North Eastern India. *Current Research in Environmental & Applied Mycology* **6**: 293–299. <https://doi.org/10.5943/cream/6/4/7>
 15. Suryanarayanan TS, **Govinda Rajulu MB**, Thirunavukkarasu N (2015). The need to explore the fungal facet of biodiversity of Arunachal Pradesh. *Journal of Bioresources* **2**: 53-60.
 16. Prakash CP, Thirumalai E, **Govinda Rajulu MB**, Thirunavukkarasu N and Suryanarayanan TS. 2015. Ecology and diversity of leaf litter fungi during early-stage

- decomposition in a seasonally dry tropical forest. *Fungal Ecology* **17**: 103-113.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.funeco.2015.05.004> (IF: 2.631)
17. Thirunavukkarasu N, Jahnes B, Broadstock A, **Govinda Rajulu MB**, Murali TS, Gopalan V and Suryanarayanan TS. 2015. Screening marine-derived endophytic fungi for xylan-degrading enzymes. *Current Science* **109**: 112-120.
<http://www.jstor.org/stable/24905695> (IF:0.967)
18. Venkatachalam A, **Govinda Rajulu MB**, Thirunavukkarasu N and Suryanarayanan TS. 2015. Endophytic fungi of marine algae and seagrasses: a novel source of chitin modifying enzymes. *Mycosphere* **6**: 345–355.
<https://doi.org/10.5943/mycosphere/6/3/10> (IF:0.654)
19. Malathi N, **Govinda Rajulu MB**, Gillet D, Suryanarayanan TS and Moerschbacher BM. 2015. A high diversity in chitinolytic and chitosanolytic species and enzymes as well as their oligomeric products exist in soil with a history of chitin and chitosan exposure. *Biomed Research International*, ID 857639. <https://doi.org/10.1155/2015/857639> (IF:2.134)
20. **Govinda Rajulu MB**, Lai LB, Murali TS, Gopalan V, Suryanarayanan TS, 2014. Several fungi from fire-prone forests of southern India can utilize furaldehydes. *Mycological Progress*. **13**:1049-1056. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11557-014-0992-0> (IF:1.913)
21. Murali TS, Thirunavukkarasu N, **Govindarajulu MB**, Suryanarayanan TS 2013 . Fungal communities of symptomless barks of tropical trees. *Mycosphere* **4**: 627–637.
<https://doi.org/10.5943/mycosphere/4/2/15>
22. **Govinda Rajulu, MB**, Thirunavukkarasu, N, Babu AG, Aggarwal A , Suryanarayanan TS and Reddy MS. 2013. Endophytic Xylariaceae from the forests of Western Ghats,

- southern India: distribution and biological activities. *Mycology: An International Journal on Fungal Biology* **4**:29-37. <https://doi.org/10.1080/21501203.2013.776648>
23. Suryanarayanan, T.S., Thirunavukkarasu, N., **Govinda Rajulu, M.B.** and Gopalan, V. 2012. Fungal endophytes: an untapped source of biocatalysts. *Fungal Diversity* **54**:19–30. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13225-012-0168-7> **(IF: 5.319)**
24. Suryanarayanan, T.S., Venkatachalam, A. and **Govinda Rajulu, M.B.** 2011. A comparison of endophyte assemblages in transgenic and non-transgenic cotton plant tissues. *Current Science* **101**:1472-1474. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/24080226> **(IF: 0.935)**
25. Suryanarayanan, T.S., **Govinda Rajulu, M.B.**, Thirumalai, E., Reddy, M.S. and Money, N.P. (2011). Agni's fungi: heat-resistant spores from the Western Ghats, southern India. *Fungal Biology* **115**: 833-838. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.funbio.2011.06.011> **(IF: 1.429)**
26. Suryanarayanan, T.S., Murali, T.S., Thirunavukkarasu, N., **Govinda Rajulu, M.B.**, Venkatesan, G., Sukumar, R. 2011. Endophytic fungal communities in woody perennials of three tropical forest types of the Western Ghats, southern India. *Biodiversity and Conservation* **20**: 913-928. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10531-011-0004-5> **(IF: 2.238)**
27. **Govinda Rajulu, M.B.**, Thirunavukkarasu, N, Suryanarayanan, T.S., Ravishankar, J.P., El Gueddari, N.E., and Moerschbacher, B.M. 2011. Chitinolytic enzymes from endophytic fungi. *Fungal Diversity* **47**:43-53. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13225-010-0071-z> **(IF: 4.769)**
28. Suryanarayanan, T.S., Thirunavukkarasu, N., **Govinda Rajulu, M.B.**, Sasse, F., Jansen, R. and Murali, T.S. 2009. Fungal endophytes and bioprospecting. *Fungal Biology Reviews* **23**: 9-19. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.fbr.2009.07.001>

29. Suryanarayanan, T.S., Thirumalai, E., Prakash, C.P., **Govinda Rajulu, M.B.** and Thirunavukkarasu, N. 2009. Fungi from two forests of southern India: a comparative study of endophytes, phellophytes and leaf litter fungi. *Canadian Journal of Microbiology* 55: 419-426. <https://doi.org/10.1139/W08-145> (IF: 1.262)

ABSTRACTED PRESENTATIONS IN NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR/SYMBOSIA/WORKSHOP ATTENDED:

Bharathwaj S, Kalaivasan MD, **Govinda Rajulu MB**, Thirunavukkarasu N and Suryanarayanan, TS (2024). Diversity of leaf fungal endophytes of Sundarban mangroves. International conference on “Biodiversity, Biotechnology and Bioprospects of Fungi for Agricultural, Industrial and Environment Sustainability” and Golden Jubilee Celebration of Mycological Society of India organized by Centre for Advanced Studies in Botany, University of Madras, Chennai, 06 to 8th March, 2024.

Bharathwaj S, Suryanarayanan, TS, **Govinda Rajulu MB** and Thirunavukkarasu N (2024). Diversity of leaf fungal endophytes of Gujarat mangroves. National conference on “Marine Biology Research Symposium MBRS 2024” organized by the Centre for Climate Change Studies at Sathyabama Institute of Science and Technology, Chennai, 23 to 25th January, 2024.

Thirunavukkarasu N, Bharathwaj S, **Govindarajulu MB** and Suryanarayanan TS. (2024). “Fungal endophytes of *Avicennia marina* and *Avicennia officinalis* (Acanthaceae) growing in different mangrove forests of India, diversity and economical importance” presented in Manipal University, MAHE, Karnataka, National Conference on "Microbes, Human Health And Environment: A One Health Approach" on 22.11.24.

Govinda Rajulu MB, Kalaivasan MD, Thirunavukkarasu N, Suryanarayanan TS. 2024. “Marine derived fungal endosymbionts of sponges: a new source of antimicrobial compounds” in national symposium ‘Role of fungi in sustainable development: From exploration to application’ organized by Department of Botany, Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune, India on 23-25th October, 2025.

- Rajamani T, Venkatachalam A, **Govinda Rajulu MB**, Thirunavukkarasu N, Suryanarayanan TS (2019) – Fungal endophyte metabolites kill plants: a source of weedicial compounds? at Department of Crop Physiology, University of Agricultural Sciences, GKVK, Bangalore, Karnataka, India. 24-26 September, 2019.
- Thirunavukkarasu N, **Govinda Rajulu MB**, Shravanakumar SS, Tanveer Kaur, Reddy MS, Suryanarayanan TS (2019). Endolichenic fungi of lichens of the southern Western Ghats - Poster Presented in National conference on Recent Advances in Biodiversity, Biology and Biotechnology of fungi & 46th Annual Meeting of Mycological Society of India held at Depart of Biotechnology, Pondicherry University, 07-09 November, 2019
- Paranetharan, M.S., Thirunavukkarasu, N., Suryanarayanan, T.S., Rajamani, T. and **Govinda Rajulu, M.B.** 2018. Dye (Congo Red) degradation by endophytic fungi – a preliminary study. National symposium on current trends in plant sciences, organized by Department of Plant Biology & Biotechnology, Madras Christian College, Chennai, 22 & 23rd February, 2018.
- “Workshop and Training on sequence analysis and Molecular simulation” 12th to 15th December 2017organised by Department of Biotechnology, Anna University, Chennai.
- Suryanarayanan, T.S., Murali, T.S., Thirunavukkarasu, N., **Govinda Rajulu, M.B.** and Venkatesan G. 2015. Environment rather than host specificity determines endophyte diversity in a seasonally dry and fire-prone tropical forest. Mycological Society of India and Asian Mycological Congress, Department of Botany , Goa university, 7th –10th October, 2015.
- Suryanarayanan, T.S., Thirunavukkarasu, N., **Govinda Rajulu, M.B** 2014. Some unaddressed issues of the horizontally transmitted endophytes. The 10th International Mycological Congress, Queen Sirikit National Convention Center, Bangkok, Thailand, August 4-8, 2014.
- Rajamani, T., **Govinda Rajulu, M.B.**, Thirunavukkarasu, N. and Suryanarayanan T.S. 2014. Studies on endophytic fungi in some medicinal plants. National conference on Fungal

Diversity and Biotechnology for Food and Chemicals & 40th Annual Meeting of Mycological Society of India. CAS in Marine Biology, Annamalai University, February 27-28, 2014.

Venkatachalam A., **Govinda Rajulu, M.B.**, Thirunavukkarasu, N. and Suryanarayanan T.S. A study on fungal endophytes of some plants of Arunachal Pradesh. 2014. National conference on Fungal Diversity and Biotechnology for Food and Chemicals & 40th Annual Meeting of Mycological Society of India. CAS in Marine Biology, Annamalai University, February 27-28, 2014.

Thirunavukkarasu, N., **Govinda Rajulu, M.B.**, Paranetharan, M.S., and Suryanarayanan, T.S. 2013. Endophytic fungi as proxy for pharmaceuticals from medicinal plants. National conference on New Frontiers in Medicinal Research, Sikkim University, 3rd - 5th October 2013.

Suryanarayanan, T.S., Devarajan, P.T., Girivasan, K.P., **Govinda Rajulu, MB**, Mohandoss, J. and Thirunavukkarasu, N. 2013. Endophyte research: some gaps which need filling up. National seminar on current perspectives of Fungi in Health Care and Environment, Bangalore University, Bangalore, India.

Suryanarayanan, T. S, Doble, M., El Gueddari, N. E., Gopalan, V., **Govinda Rajulu, M. B.**, Moerschbacher, B.M., Money, N. P., Murali, T. S., Sahal, D., Sasse, F., Sukumar, R., Thirunavukkarasu, N and Vidal, S. 2012. Fungal endophytes: an ecological group with high technological potential. International conference on Endophytes in biotechnology and agriculture, Foundation Edmund Mach, COST Meeting Trento, Italy.

Thirunavukkarasu, N., **Govinda Rajulu, M.B.**, Mohandoss, J., Suryanarayanan, T.S. 2011. Endophyte assemblage of an evergreen forest in the Nilgiri biosphere reserve. National conference on “Recent Advances in Mycological Research”, Chennai, India.

Nagaraju D, **Govinda Rajulu MB**, El Gueddari NE, Suryanarayanan TS, Moerschbacher BM 2009. Identification and characterization of chitinolytic enzymes from endophytic fungi. `Sugars in Norwich` – Royal Soc. Chemistry, Carbohydrate Meeting, London, UK.

Thirunavukkarasu N, **Govinda Rajulu MB**, Murali TS, Thirumalai E, Prakash CP, Suryanarayanan TS. 2009. Extracellular enzymes of microfungi from forests of the Western Ghats. National symposium on “New Vistas for Mycology in meeting global challenges”, Chennai, India.

Thirunavukkarasu N, **Govinda Rajulu MB**, Florenz Sasse, Rolf Jansen, Suryanarayanan TS. 2007. Bioactive compounds from endophytic fungi isolated from trees of Western Ghats. 2nd Asian Congress of Mycology and Plant Pathology, Hyderabad.

Govinda Rajulu MB, Muruganandam, V, Suryanarayanan TS. 2006. Fungal endophytes of *Capsicum annuum*. L. National Seminar on Fungal Biodiversity, Biotechnology & Bioinformatics, Bangalore.

Govinda Rajulu MB, Thirunavukkarasu N, Florenz Sasse, Rolf Jansen, Suryanarayanan TS. 2006. Chaetoglobosins with anti-actin activity from an endophytic *Chaetomium* sp. National conference on Recent Trends in Mycological Research, Pudukottai.

COMPUTER SKILLS:

- Excellent skills in MS word, Excel, Powerpoint and Access
- Working knowledge of statistical packages including EstimateS, BioDiversity Pro, Graphpad Prism
- Diploma in Computer Application.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M.B. Govinda Rajulu', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Signature