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EDUCATION

- Ph.D. in Genetics, Institute of Genetics and Developmental Biology, University of Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing, China (2012-2016)
- M.Sc. in Biotechnology, Postgraduate of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka (2010-2012)
- B.Sc. in Agricultural Technology & Management, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka (2006-2010)

PROFESSIONAL CAREER

Mar. 2022 – Present Senior Lecturer, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka.

Oct. 2021- Feb. 2022 Scientist, Sri Lanka Institute of Biotechnology, Pitipana, Homagama, Sri Lanka.

Jan. 2021- Oct. 2021 Senior Lecturer, Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka.

Dec. 2020-Jan. 2021 Lecturer, Department of Plant Sciences, Faculty of Agriculture, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka.

Apr. 2018- Jan. 2021 Post-doctoral research fellow, School of Life Sciences, Shaanxi Normal University, Xi'an, China.

OTHER APPOINTMENT

Member of the teaching panel, Board of Study in Agricultural Biology (2021- To date), Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka.

CURRENT TEACHING

Undergraduate courses: Principles of Genetics and Breeding, Molecular Genetics, Recombinant DNA Technology, Bioinformatics, Applied Biotechnology, Practicum in Molecular Biology

Postgraduate courses: Biotechnology in crop improvement, Practicum- Crop Improvement

SCHOLARSHIPS/FELLOWSHIP

Talent young scientist postdoctoral fellowship 2018-2021

University of Chinese Academy of Sciences PhD scholarship 2012-2016

MEMBERSHIPS

Member, Organization for Women in Science for the Developing World (OWSD)

Member, Institute of Biology, Sri Lanka

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Sisirakumara M.R.C.D., Jayawardana N.U., and **Somarathne Y.** Optimization of cost-effective DNA extraction protocol and PCR conditions to amplify *rbcL* marker in *Rhinacanthus* species. *International Symposium on Agriculture and Environment 2023*, Ruhuna University, Sri Lanka.

Somarathne Y., Guan D.L., Wang W., Zhao L., and Xu SQ. The complete chloroplast genomes of two *Lespedeza* species: Insights into codon usage bias, RNA editing sites, and phylogenetic relationships in Desmodieae (Fabaceae: Papilionoideae). *Plants* 2020, 9(1), 51.

Somarathne Y., Guan D.L., Abbood N.N., Zhao L., Wang W., and Xu SQ. Comparison of the Complete *Eragrostis pilosa* Chloroplast Genome with Its Relatives in Eragrostideae (Chloridoideae; Poaceae). *Plants* 2019, 8(11), 485.

Somarathne Y., Guan D.L., Wang W., Zhao L., and Xu SQ. Complete chloroplast genome sequence of *Xanthium sibiricum* provides useful DNA barcodes for future species identification and phylogeny. *Plant Syst Evol* 2019. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00606-019-01614-1>

Somarathne Y., Tian Y., Zhang H., Wang M., Huo Y., Cao F., Zhao L., and Chen H. ABNORMAL POLLEN VACUOLATION1 (APV1) is required for male fertility by contributing to anther cuticle and pollen exine formation in maize. *Plant Journal* 2017, 90, 96-110. http://www.maizegdb.org/data_center/variation/9036320

Tian Y., Xiao S., Liu J., **Somarathne Y.**, Zhang H., Wang M., Zhang H., Zhao L., and Chen H. MALE STERILE6021 (MS6021) is required for the development of anther cuticle and pollen exine in maize. *Scientific Reports* 2017, 7, 16736

Cui D., Wu D., **Somarathna Y.**, Xu C., Li S., Li P., Zhang H., Chen H., and Li Z. QTL mapping for Salt Tolerance Based on SNP Markers at Seedling Stage in Maize (*Zea mays* L.), *Euphytica* **2015**, 203, 273–283.

Somaratne Y., Abayawickrama A.S.M.T., Wickramasinghe I.P., and Samarasinghe W.L.G. Estimating Out-Crossing Rate of Bg 379-2 Using Morphological Markers and Confirmation by Molecular Markers. *Rice Science* **2012**, 19, 166–168.

Somaratne Y., Tian Y., Zhang H., Huo Y., Zhao Li., and Chen H. (2016). Fine mapping and functional analysis of maize male sterility gene *CHB15*. The 2nd Molecular plant international symposium, August 11-14, 2016, Beijing, China.

Wu D., Cui D., **Somarathna Y.**, Yang A., Li Z., and Chen H. (2014). Mapping QTLs for Salt Tolerance Based on SNP Markers at Seedling Stage in Maize (*Zea mays* L.), 56th Annual Maize Genetics Conference, March 13-16, 2014, Beijing, China.

Karunagoda R.P., **Somaratne Y.**, and Perera M. (2011). Screening for Antibacterial Activity of *Rhinacanthus* species used in Traditional Ayurvedic Medicine in Sri Lanka, Proceedings of the Peradeniya University Research Sessions, Vol 16, Pg (177).