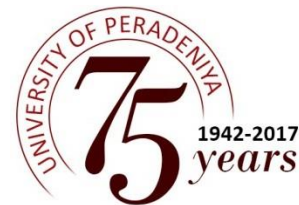




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University of Peradeniya
Faculty of Agriculture



Department of Agricultural Biology

Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya, Peradeniya 20400, Sri Lanka

Venura Herath PhD

Dept. of Agric. Biology

Faculty of Agriculture, Peradeniya 20400

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Office: +94812395221 – Mobile: +94778487405

EDUCATION

PhD in Molecular Genetics, University of Maine, 2011

BSc (Agric.), University of Peradeniya, 2004

POSITIONS HELD - PROFESSIONAL

October 2017- Present

Professor in Environmental Genomics

Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka

April 2019 -February 2021

Postdoctoral Research Fellow

Texas A&M University, College Station, United States

August 2017- October 2017

Senior Lecturer Gr I

Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka

August 2011- Present

Senior Lecturer Gr II

Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka

September 2016- August 2018

Head of the Department

Department of Agricultural Biology, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka

August 2011-Present

Visiting Lecturer

Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture-University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka

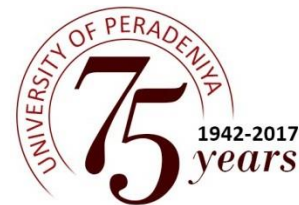
January 2006- August 2011

Lecturer (Probationary)

Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka



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Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya, Peradeniya 20400, Sri Lanka

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Herath, V., & Verchot, J. (2023). Deciphering transcriptional dynamics in plant responses to viruses. *Frontiers in Plant Science*, 14, 519.

Herath, V., & Verchot, J. (2022). Comprehensive Transcriptome Analysis Reveals Genome-Wide Changes Associated with Endoplasmic Reticulum (ER) Stress in Potato (*Solanum tuberosum* L.). *International Journal of Molecular Sciences*, 23(22), 13795.

Gunawardana, D., & **Herath, V.** (2022). A Hypothesis on How the Azolla Symbiosis Mitigates Nitrous Oxide Based on In Silico Analyses. *J*, 5(1), 166-185.

Herath, V., Connolly, K., Roach, A., Ausekar, A., Persky, T., & Verchot, J. (2022). The plant endoplasmic reticulum UPRome: A repository and pathway browser for genes involved in signaling networks linked to the endoplasmic reticulum. *Plant Direct*, 6(7), e431.

Muhammad, K., **Herath, V.**, Ahmed, K., Tahir, M., & Verchot, J. (2022). Genetic diversity and molecular evolution of sugarcane mosaic virus, comparing whole genome and coat protein sequence phylogenies. *Archives of Virology*, 167(11), 2239-2247.

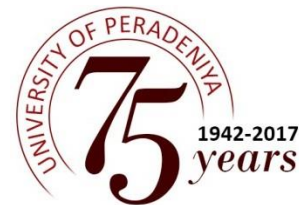
Jha, S. G., Borowsky, A. T., Cole, B. J., Fahlgren, N., Farmer, A., Huang, S. S. C., ... & Plant Cell Atlas Consortium. (2021). Science forum: vision, challenges and opportunities for a plant cell atlas. *Elife*, 10, e66877.

Arulanathan, A., **Herath, V.**, Kuganathan, S., Upasanta, A., & Harishchandra, A. (2021, September). The Status of the Coral Reefs of the Jaffna Peninsula (Northern Sri Lanka), with 36 Coral Species New to Sri Lanka Confirmed by DNA Bar-Coding. In *Oceans* (Vol. 2, No. 3, pp. 509-529). Multidisciplinary Digital Publishing Institute.

Herath, V., & Verchot, J. (2021). Transcriptional Regulatory Networks Associate with Early Stages of Potato Virus X Infection of *Solanum tuberosum*. *International journal of molecular sciences*, 22(6), 2837.



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Herath, V., & Verchot, J. (2021). Insight into the *bZIP* gene family in *solanum tuberosum*: Genome and transcriptome analysis to understand the roles of gene diversification in spatiotemporal gene expression and function. *International Journal of Molecular Sciences*, 22(1), 1–27. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijms22010253>

Gayral, M., Arias Gaguancela, O., Vasquez, E., **Herath, V.**, Flores, F. J., Dickman, M. B., & Verchot, J. (2020). Multiple ER-to-nucleus stress signaling pathways are activated during *Plantago asiatica* mosaic virus and Turnip mosaic virus infection in *Arabidopsis thaliana*. *The Plant Journal*, 103(3), 1233–1245. <https://doi.org/10.1111/tpj.14798>

Herath, V., Romay, G., Urrutia, C. D., & Verchot, J. (2020). Family Level Phylogenies Reveal Relationships of Plant Viruses within the Order Bunyavirales. *Viruses*, 12(9), 1010. <https://doi.org/10.3390/v12091010>

Herath, V., Gayral, M., Miller, R. K., & Verchot, J. (2020). BiP and the unfolded protein response are important for potyvirus and potexvirus infection. *Plant Signaling & Behavior*, 15(11), 1807723. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15592324.2020.1807723>

Herath, V., Gayral, M., Adhikari, N., Miller, R., & Verchot, J. (2020). Genome-wide identification and characterization of *Solanum tuberosum* BiP genes reveal the role of the promoter architecture in BiP gene diversity. *Scientific Reports*, 10(1), 11327. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-020-68407-2>

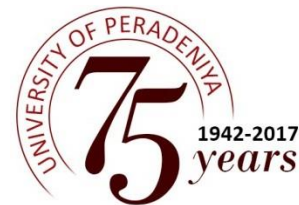
Liyanage, K. K., Khan, S., **Herath, V.**, Brooks, S., Mortimer, P. E., Nadir, S., Hyde, K. D., & Xu, J. (2020). Genome Wide Identification of the MLO Gene Family Associated with Powdery Mildew Resistance in Rubber Trees (*Hevea brasiliensis*). *Tropical Plant Biology*, 13(4), 331–342. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12042-020-09262-3>

Verchot, J., **Herath, V.**, Urrutia, C. D., Gayral, M., Lyle, K., Shires, M. K., Ong, K., & Byrne, D. (2020). Development of a Reverse Genetic System for Studying Rose Rosette Virus in Whole Plants. *Molecular Plant-Microbe Interactions*[®], 33(10), 1209–1221. <https://doi.org/10.1094/MPMI-04-20-0094-R>

De Zoysa, M., Nanayakkara, D., **Herath, V.**, & Jayatilake, D. (2020). Allelic diversity of flowering-time regulatory gene *Hd3a* in rice. *Journal of Crop Improvement*, 34(2), 206–217. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15427528.2019.1684409>



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Abhayawickrama, B., Gimhani, D., Kottearachchi, N., **Herath, V.**, Liyanage, D., & Senadheera, P. (2020). In Silico Identification of QTL-Based Polymorphic Genes as Salt-Responsive Potential Candidates through Mapping with Two Reference Genomes in Rice. *Plants*, 9(2), 233. <https://doi.org/10.3390/plants9020233>

Jayatilake, D., & **Herath, V.** (2020). Breaking the Mold: Pave the Way for Future Cereals. In *Agricultural Research for Sustainable Food Systems in Sri Lanka* (pp. 171–188). Springer Singapore. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-15-2152-2_8

Nanayakkara, D., Edirisingha, I., Dissanayake, L., Weerasinghe, D., Suriyagoda, L., **Herath, V.**, Perera, C., & Jayatilake, D. (2020). A novel intragenic marker targeting the ectodomain of bacterial blight-resistance gene Xa21 for marker-assisted selection in rice. *Journal of Crop Improvement*, 34(6), 824–841. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15427528.2020.1771643>

Herath, V. The architecture of the GhD7 promoter reveals the roles of GhD7 in growth, development and the abiotic stress response in rice. *Comput. Biol. Chem.* **82**, 1–8 (2019).

RESEARCH GRANTS

Functional and Comparative Genomics of Grain Number, Plant Height and Heading date 7 (Ghd7) in Sri Lankan Rice Varieties and its Role in Conferring Abiotic Stress Tolerance. National Research Council, Sri Lanka. Grant No: NRC/14/117

Genetic characterization of coral spp. in Jaffna Peninsula and surrounding islands. Funded by Research Facilitation Fund, Postgraduate Institute of Sri Lanka.

Genetic characterization of Sri Lankan Leopards (*Panthera pardus kotiya*) . Collaborative project with The Wilderness & Wildlife Conservation Trust.

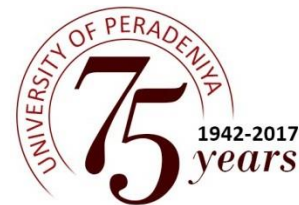
Preliminary analysis of *metallothionein – 2A(MT-2A)* polymorphisms among selected groups of patients of chronic kidney disease of uncertain etiology (CKdu) in North Central Province, Sri Lanka (University of Peradeniya , Grant No: RG/AF/2013/09/Ag)

Role of the OsTGA10 Transcription Factor in Drought Stress Response in Rice. International Foundation for Science, Sweden, Grant No: C/5267-1

Phenotypic and Biochemical Analysis of Drought Response in Two Sri Lankan Traditional Rice Varieties (*Oryza sativa* L.) University Grants, Grant No: RG/2012/08/Ag



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Genomic and Proteomic Approaches of Identifying Dehydration Stress Responsive Genes from Selected Rice Varieties in Sri Lanka. National Science Foundation, Sri Lanka, Grant No: RG/2012/BT/1

AWARDS

Presidential Awards for Research Publications- 2012

The Norris Charles Clements Graduate Student Award 2011- University of Maine

Cold Spring Harbor Grant- Cereal Genomics 2009, Long Island, New York

SBE Travel Award – Plant ROS 2009, July 7th -10th, 2009. Helsinki, Finland

GSG Travel Grant- ROS 2009, July 7th -10th, 2009. Helsinki, Finland

ASPB Travel Grant - Plant Biology 2008, June 26- July , 2008. Merida, Mexico

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Society of Plant Biologists	2007-Present
American Society of Plant Pathology	2006-Present
Golden key international honorary society	2007-Present
Sri Lankan Assoc. for the Advancement of Science	2004-Present