

Curriculum Vitae

Asela J. Wijeratne

Current Position : Postdoctoral Researcher (The Erich Grotewold Laboratory)

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Education and Professional Experience:

- **Ph.D.** (Plant Physiology), the Pennsylvania State University
- **Graduate Research Assistant/Teaching Assistant**, from 2002-2007, the Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA. Thesis title: **Expression and functional studies of genes involved in anther development and male meiosis**
- **Plant Physiologist**, Coconut Research Institute, Sri Lanka; 2000 to 2002
- **Research Assistant**, Department of Botany, University of Peradeniya, Peradeniya, Sri Lanka; 2000
- **B.S.** (Special Science Degree in Botany) University of Peradeniya, Peradeniya, Sri Lanka; 1996 to 2000

Honors and Awards:

Biology Graduate Student Research Excellence Award -2006, Department of Biology, the Pennsylvania State University

Professional Memberships:

Life Member, Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science

Teaching experience:

Teaching Assistant at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory: Frontiers and Techniques in Plant Science; summer, 2005

Teaching assistant-undergraduate laboratories courses at the Pennsylvania State University: (Biology 110, Biology: Basic Concepts and Biodiversity; fall, 2003 and 2004; Biology 240W - Biology: Function and Development of Organisms; spring, 2006 and 2007)

Journal articles:

- Wijeratne, A.J.**, Chen, C., Zhang, W., Timofejeva, L., and Ma, H. (2006). The *Arabidopsis thaliana* *PARTING DANCERS* gene encoding a novel protein is required for normal meiotic homologous recombination. *Mol. Biol. Cell* **17**, 1331-1343
- Wijeratne, A.J.**, Zhang, W., Sun, Y., Liu, W., Albert, R., Zheng, Z., Oppenheimer, D.G., Zhao, D., and Ma, H. (2007). Differential gene expression in *Arabidopsis* wild-type and mutant anthers: insights into anther cell differentiation and regulatory networks. *Plant J.* **52**, 14-29.
- Ranasinghe, C. S. and **Wijeratne, A. J.** (2005) Vegetative, reproductive and physiological changes in coconut palms affected by Coconut Rapid Decline (CRD). *COCOS* **17**, 1-10

Manuscripts in preparation:

- Wijeratne, A. J.**, Copenhaver, G.P. and Ma, H. Elucidating the genetic relationship with *PARTING DANCERS* and other genes involved in crossover formation
- Zhang, W., Sun, Y., Zhang X., **Wijeratne, A. J.**, Liu, W., Guerra, M. W., and Ma, H. *Arabidopsis* Early Anther Global Gene Expression Profile by Microarray Analysis

Oral presentations

- Insights into cell differentiation and regulatory networks during anther development in *Arabidopsis*.** Seminar Series, Intercollege graduate program in plant physiology, the Pennsylvania State University, February 12, 2007
- PARTING DANCERS*, a novel gene that is required for homologous recombination in *Arabidopsis thaliana*.** Minisymposium 10: Cell Division - Annual meeting of the American Society of Plant Biologists, Boston, MA, August 5-9, 2006
- PARTING DANCERS* is required for homologous recombination during meiotic prophase I in *Arabidopsis thaliana*.** Seminar Series, Intercollege graduate program in plant physiology, the Pennsylvania State University, April 4, 2005
- PARTING DANCERS* is required for homologous recombination during meiotic prophase I in *Arabidopsis thaliana*.** American Society of Plant Biologists Northeast Sectional Meeting, State University of New York at Binghamton, June 3-4, 2005
- Physiological and anatomical responses of four *Syzygium* Species in relation to different light intensities and to their spatial distribution in a lowland rain forest, Sri Lanka.** 56th Annual sessions of Sri Lanka Association of Advancement of Science, 27 November - 01 December, 2000 at University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka
- Changes in water potential and hydraulic architecture in response to different light intensities in four *Syzygium* species** Annual Research Sessions 2000, Faculty of Science and Postgraduate Institute of Science, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka. 21st October 2000, at the Faculty of Science, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka

Conference abstract

- Wijeratne, A. J.**, Winburn, J., and Grotewold, E. *Cis*-Regulatory Element Mutational Analysis (CREMA), a novel high-throughput strategy to identify point mutations in *cis*-regulatory

elements in *Arabidopsis*. Plant and Animal Genome XVI Conference, Town and Country Convention Center, San Diego, California, January 12-16, 2008

Wijeratne, A. J., Zhang, W., Sun, Y., Liu, W., Zhao, D., Albert, R., and Ma, H. Integrating molecular genetics and bioinformatics to unravel the transcriptional network controlling in anther development, 1st Annual system biology workshop, the Pennsylvania State University, September 7, 2006.

Wijeratne, A. J., Chen, C., Zhang, W., Timofejeva, L., Gregory P. Copenhaver and Ma, H. *PARTING DANCERS*, a founding member of a novel gene family in plants, is required for the homologous recombination during meiotic prophase I in *Arabidopsis*. 16th Penn State Symposium in Plant Physiology (I RNA Biology: Novel Insights from Plant Systems), the Pennsylvania State University, May 18-20, 2006.

Wijeratne, A. J., Chen, C., Zhang, W., Timofejeva, L., and Ma, H. *PARTING DANCERS*, a gene, requires for the homologue recombination during meiotic prophase I, Annual Genetics Symposium, the Pennsylvania State University, April 22, 2006.

Wijeratne, A. J., Chen, C., Zhang, W., Timofejeva, L., and Ma, H. *PARTING DANCERS*, a gene, requires for the homologue recombination during meiotic prophase I in *Arabidopsis thaliana*. 16th International Conference on Arabidopsis Research, June 20 to 25, 2005.

Sun, Y., Zhang, W., **Wijeratne, A. J.**, Liu, W., and Ma, H. Genes potentially regulated by *ASK1* gene during early anther development in *Arabidopsis* 15th Penn State Symposium in Plant Physiology (Regulation of Plant Growth), the Pennsylvania State University, May 20 to 22, 2004.

Wijeratne, A. J., Ranasinghe C S and Mathes D T. (2002) Quantification of vegetative reproductive and physiological parameters of rapid decline-affected coconut (*Cocos nucifera* L.) palms. Abstract in Proceedings of Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science 58, 162.

Wijeratne, A. J., Tennakoon, K.U., and Gunatilleke, C. V. S. 2000. Physiological and anatomical responses of four *Syzygium* species in relation to different light intensities and to their spatial distribution in a lowland rain forest, Sri Lanka. Abstract and Proceedings of the 56th Annual sessions of Sri Lanka Association of Advancement of Science. Pp. 151.

Wijeratne, A. J., Tennakoon, K.U., and Gunatilleke, C. V. S. 2000. Changes in water potential and hydraulic architecture in response to different light intensities in four *Syzygium* species. *Proceedings and Abstracts of the Annual Research Sessions 2000*. Faculty of Science and Postgraduate Institute of Science, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka. p. 22.

Out reach activities

Served as a judge at 22nd **Annual Graduate Exhibition**, The Pennsylvania State University

Served as a judge at 71st **Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science**, Pennsylvania state meet

Served as a judge at 72nd **Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science**, Pennsylvania state meet

Participant in the two-day Science Camp (for G. C. E. Ordinary Level and Advanced Level students) conducted by the Science Education Unit, Faculty of Science, University of Peradeniya, at Ranasinghe Premadasa National School Hasalaka, Sri Lanka on 28th and 29th October 2000.