Department of Botany

Faculty of Science / University of Peradeniya



Prof. J.W. Damunupola

B.Sc. (Perad.), Ph.D. (Queensland, Australia)

Professor in Botany

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About Me

Currently a Senior Lecturer at the Department of Botany. Joined the Department in 2001. Ph.D. obtained from the University of Queensland, Australia in Postharvest Physiology. I am a Postharvest Physiologist and I have been engaged in Postharvest Physiology/ Pathology related work for the past 20 years. Initiated many floriculture based research in the Department. My research interests are in the fields of postharvest physiology/pathology of tropical fruit, vegetables, and ornamental plants, postharvest technology of cut flowers and decorative foliage, and antifungal and herbicidal activity of invasive plant extracts. At present most of my research is geared towards developing eco-friendly herbicides and fungicides. I strongly believe in interdisciplinary research to succeed in future challenges and would like to have collaborations in the fields of Plant biochemistry, Horticulture, and Phytopathology. Further, I am a Bonsai enthusiast.

Higher Education Qualifications

PhD

University of Queensland
Australia
(2009)

BSc

University of Peradeniya - Sri Lanka
(2000)

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Awards, Scholarships, Memberships & Fellowships

- Prof. M.D. Dassanayake Gold Medal For Botany, 2000 (University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka).
- National Science Foundation Awards (2019) - Commendation Certificate and a Cash prize
- National Research Council (NRC) merit award for scientific publications – 2011.
- University Scholarship for best performance, 2000 (University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka).
- Selected as the best poster at the “Australasian Postharvest Conference 2007” Terrigal, New South Wales, Australia, 2007.
- Award for the Best Commercially Viable Research Finding at the National Symposium for Floriculture Research 2011, Sri Lanka.
- Endeavour Research Fellow, University of Queensland, Australia (2016)
- Life member of the Institute of Biology, Sri Lanka
- Life member of the Sri Lankan Association for the Advancement of Science (SLAAS)
- Life member of the Faculty of Science, Alumni Association, University of Peradeniya
- Member of the International Society for Horticultural Science (ISHS; 2009, 2015)
- Member of the Australian Society for Horticultural Science (AuSHS; 2008 – to date)
- Award of Research Scholar, Centre for Native Floriculture, Faculty of Natural Resources, Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences, University of Queensland, Australia
- Committee Member - Sri Lanka Association of Mycology and Plant Pathology (SLAMPP)

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Positions Held

- Board Member of the Board of Study of Plant Sciences, Postgraduate Institute of Science (PGIS), University of Peradeniya- (2010 - 2017 and 2023 - 2026)
- Secretary and Board Member, Board of Study in Environmental Sciences, Postgraduate Institute of Science (PGIS), University of Peradeniya- (2011 - 2012)
- Member of the Research Advisory Panel - National Institute of Postharvest Management- (2020 - to date)
- Committee Member, Sub Committee of Faculty Applied Science Program- (2010 - 2012)
- Committee Member, Faculty e-Learning Committee- (2011)
- Visiting Lecturer for the Horticultural course at Department of Plant Sciences, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka- (2013, 2014, 2015, 2016)
- Subject Coordinator, M.Sc. programme in Science Education (Biology), Postgraduate Institute of Science, University of Peradeniya- (2015-2016)
- Co-coordinator, M.Sc. programme in Pharmaceutical Botany, Postgraduate Institute of Science, University of Peradeniya- (2016/2017, 2017/2018)
- Secretary, Board of Study in Plant Sciences, Postgraduate Institute of Science (PGIS), University of Peradeniya- (2014 – 2017)
- Co-coordinator of the workshop on “Getting Started with Flowers and Foliage”. Organized by the Postgraduate Institute of Science, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka- (June, 2013)
- Senior Student Counselor, Faculty of Science, University of Peradeniya- (2014, 2015)
- Secretary, University Science Teachers’ Association, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka- (2011 – 2012)
- Activity Sub-Coordinator for HETC-QIG-W4 activity 3.1, Research Dissemination and Commercialization Project of the Faculty of Science HETC – Workshop on Seed germination and storage of Queen Palms- (2015)
- Visiting Lecturer for the Department of Pharmacy, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, University of Peradeniya- (2013)
- Resource person of the Teacher Training Program (Central and Uva Provinces of Sri Lanka) – G.C.E. Advanced Level Biology (Organized by the Ministry of Education, National Institute of Education and Postgraduate Institute of Science, University of Peradeniya)- (2011, 2014, 2015, 2016)
- Visiting Lecturer for the M.Sc. Programs in Environmental Sciences, Biodiversity, Ecotourism & Environment Management, Medical Microbiology, Pharmaceutical Botany and Science Education (Biology), Postgraduate Institute of Science, University of Peradeniya- (2010 – to date)
- Visiting Lecturer for the M.Sc. Program in Floriculture and Landscape Management, Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya- (2015, 2016)
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My Teachings

- AS417: Food and Fresh Produce Technology
- BIO1022: Plant and Animal Form and Function
- BL102: Plant and Animal Form and Function
- BOT2042: Plant Water Relations and Mineral Nutrition
- BT206: Plant Physiology
- BT305: Developmental Physiology and Postharvest Technology
- BT408: Advanced Plant Physiology
- BT419: Physiology and Management of Ornamental Plants
- MIC3102: Biofertilizer and Biopesticides

Research Interests (Research Fields/ Projects)

Floriculture, Postharvest Physiology, Plant Pathology, Phytochemistry, Plant Physiology

Ongoing Research and Projects

Screening selected invasive plant extracts/compounds for antifungal activity against pathogens of ornamental foliage plants.

National Science Foundation. (RG/2015/EB/02), 2015-2018.

Invasive Alien Plants for Control of Pests in Agriculture:

Fungicidal and Insecticidal Properties of Some Invasive Plants and Their Montmorillonite Composites. (NCARP/16/UP/PGIS/01), 2016 – 2018.

Development of a protocol for testing seed vigor of rice and maintaining high seed vigor during storage using popular improved rice varieties of Sri Lanka.

(NCARP/16/UP/SC/01), 2016 – 2018.

Growth responses of Ophiopogon japonicus for differential potting media, plant growth hormones and fertilizer treatments.

National Science Foundation (RG/2012/AG/03) 2012-2015 (recently completed)

Plant hormonal regulation on physiological changes in tea (Camellia sinensis) during drought stress

In collaboration with the Tea Research Institute, Talawakele, Sri Lanka

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Key Publications

Functional Plant Biology - (2011)

Characterisation of xylem conduits and their possible role in limiting the vase life of cut Acacia holosericea (Mimosaceae) foliage stems.

Journal of the Japanese Society for Horticultural Science - (2008)

When is a vase solution biocide not, or not only, antimicrobial?

Conferences

7th International Conference on Phytopathology in Achieving UN Sustainable Development Goals

HELD AT : New Delhi, India - (16-20, January, 2020)

Plant Health 2019

HELD AT : Kandy, Sri Lanka - (30th August, 2019)

28th A-IMBN.AMBO International Training Course on “Innovative Strategy for Post-Genomic Research”

HELD AT : Osaka University, Japan - (30th May – 7th June 2005)

XVI Congress of the Federation of European Societies of Plant Biology

HELD AT : Finland - (2008)

National and Trans-Tasman Horticultural Science Conference

HELD AT : Australia - (2008)

My Publications

Please goto the website.

https://sci.pdn.ac.lk/botany/staff/Jilushi-Damunupola

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