Department of Botany
Faculty of Science / University of Peradeniya



Prof. H.M.S.P. Madawala

B.Sc. (Perad.), M.Phil., Ph.D. (Cantab)

Senior Professor in Botany

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About Me

Currently, I serve as a Senior Professor in Botany at the Department of Botany, Faculty of Science, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka. I earned my B.Sc. (Special) in Botany from the University of Peradeniya, followed by M.Phil. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Cambridge, United Kingdom. Since joining the Department of Botany, I have been involved in numerous research projects in forest ecology, plant ecophysiology, invasive species biology, soil microbiology, and restoration ecology, contributing to a deeper understanding of tropical ecosystems and plant–soil interactions. My work includes studies on the ecological impacts of invasive species, soil nutrient dynamics, and vegetation composition in Sri Lankan forests. I have authored numerous peer?reviewed journal articles on topics such as invasive species impacts, soil seed banks and their role in forest restoration, plant diversity gradients, heavy-metal stress responses, and biofertilizer applications in horticulture. I have also participated in interdisciplinary research collaborations and contributed to the literature on environmental and restoration ecology. In addition to my research, I have served in various academic roles, including membership on key boards such as the Board of Study in Science Education and the Board of Management of the Postgraduate Institute of Science at the University of Peradeniya. I currently serve as Editor-in-Chief of the Ceylon Journal of Science. My contributions to science have been recognized through national research awards, reflecting my commitment to advancing botanical and ecological research in Sri Lanka.

Higher Education Qualifications

PhD	MPhil	BSc
University of Cambridge United Kingdom (1997)	University of Cambridge United Kingdom (1994)	University of Peradeniya (1992)

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Awards, Scholarships, Memberships & Fellowships

- National Research Council Merit Award for Scientific Publications - 2010
- The President’s Award for Scientific Publication - 2011
- The President’s Award for Scientific Publication - 2012
- The President’s Award for Scientific Publication - 2013
- The President’s Award for Scientific Publication - 2014

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Positions Held

- Chairperson, Board of Study in Science Education
- Member, Board of Management, Postgraduate Institute of Science, Peradeniya- (2016 to date)

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My Teachings

Nothing to show under this subheading !!!

Research Interests (Research Fields/ Projects)

Biology of Invasive plants
Forest Ecology
Restoration Ecology

Soil Microbiology
Plant Ecophysiology

Ongoing Research and Projects

Investigation on Ecological and Socio-Economic Impacts of Bamboo (*Bambusa bambos L. Voss*) in Intermediate Zone forests in Sri Lanka

A native bamboo species (*Bambusa bambos*) is expanding its population in Dry and Intermediate Zone forests in Sri Lanka altering their structure, composition and diversity. So far, less attention has been drawn to this problem as generally bamboo considered as a plant with an economical value. In this project, we are looking at the impacts of the spread of bamboo in these forests and also its socio-economic impacts on the communities living close to these forests.

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Key Publications

- (2016)

Phylogenetic turnover along local environmental gradients in tropical forest communities.

New Zealand Journal of Botany - (2014)

Comparative growth and photosynthetic responses of native and adventive iceplant taxa to salinity stress.

Conferences

Nothing to show under this subheading !!!

My Publications

Please goto the website.

https://sci.pdn.ac.lk/botany/staff/Sumedha-Madawala

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