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CURRENT POSITION

Professor of Applied Zoology, Department of Zoology, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka

EDUCATION

Memorial University of Newfoundland, Canada – Ph.D. (Marine Biology) 2003

Thesis title: Kin discrimination in Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*) and brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*): recognition cues and function

University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka – M.Phil. (Molecular Parasitology) 1997

Thesis title: Effect of anti μ -galactosyl on the growth of the malaria parasite, *Plasmodium falciparum*

University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka – B.Sc. (Hons. in Zoology) 1994

Thesis title: Formation of peritrophic membrane in the midgut of some mosquito species

AWARDS & HONOURS

2020 **Fulbright Advanced Research and Lecturing Fellowship**, Georgia Southern University, USA.

2019, 2017 **SUSRED** (Support Scheme for Supervision of Research Degrees) National Science Foundation, SL.

2019 **Association of Commonwealth Universities Blue Charter Fellowship**, Brunel University London, UK.

2017 **Endeavour Research Fellowship**, James Cook University, Australia.

2016, 2015, 2014, 2011, 2010 & 2008 **President's Awards** for Research.

2013 **National Research Council Merit Award** for Scientific Publications.

2010 **Award for Excellence in Scientific Research**, Young Scientists Forum (YSF), National Science and Technology Commission (NASTEC) Sri Lanka.

2009 **Merit Certificate for Research**, Young Scientists Forum (YSF), NASTEC, Sri Lanka.

2002 **Fellow of the Graduate School**, School of Graduate Studies, Memorial University of Newfoundland.

1998 **Doctoral Scholarship**, Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

1995 **Graduate Student Fellowship**. Institute of Fundamental Studies, Sri Lanka.

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

Jan 2016 to date **Professor of Applied Zoology**, Faculty of Science, University of Peradeniya

Mar 2013 – Dec 2015 **Professor in Zoology**, Faculty of Science, University of Peradeniya

Feb 2013 – Feb 2016 **Head, Department of Zoology**, University of Peradeniya

Jan 2011 – Mar 2013 **Senior Lecturer Gr I**, Department of Zoology, University of Peradeniya

Jan – April 2009 **Sessional Lecturer**, Department of Biology, University of Alberta, Canada
May 2003 – Dec 2010 **Senior Lecturer Gr II**, Department of Zoology, University of Peradeniya
Jan 1998 – Apr 2002 **Teaching Assistant**, Department of Biology, Memorial University of NFL, Canada
Jan 1998 – May 2003 **Lecturer**, (Jan 1998 – Sep 2002 to on study leave) Department of Zoology, UoP
Jan 1996 – Dec 1997 **Lecturer (Probationary)**, Department of Zoology, University Peradeniya
Aug 1994 – Dec 1995 **Research Student Fellow**, Institute of Fundamental Studies, Kandy, Sri Lanka
April – August 1994 **Demonstrator (Temporary)** Department of Zoology, University of Peradeniya

PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS HELD

2020 to date **Chairperson**, Career Enhancement and Guidance Committee, Faculty of Science
2016 / 2017 **President**, Alumni Association of the University of Peradeniya (AAUP)
2016 to 2020 Member of the **Committee on Sexual and Gender-based Harassment and Violence**
at the University of Peradeniya
2016 to date Member of the **Editorial Committee of the Indian Ocean Turtle Newsletter**
2016 to date **Chairperson**, English Committee, Faculty of Science
2012 – 2015 & **Chairperson, Board of Study in Zoological Sciences**, Postgraduate Institute of
2007/2008 Science, University of Peradeniya
2012 – 2015 **Member of Board of Discipline**, University of Peradeniya
2012/2013 **Faculty Coordinator**, International Research Centre (InRc), University of Peradeniya
2012/2013 **Deputy Proctor**, Faculty of Science, University of Peradeniya
2012 – 2014 Member of the Physical Education and Sports Advisory Committee of the University
2012/2013 **Treasurer**, Alumni Association of the University of Peradeniya
2011 – 2015 **Warden, Ramanathan Hall**, University of Peradeniya
2011 – 2013 **Honorary Secretary, UPSAA** University of Peradeniya Science Alumni Association
2011 to date **Executive Committee Member of** Alumni Association of University of Peradeniya
2010 – 2012 & **Member, Board of Study in Zoological Sciences**, Postgraduate Institute
2005 – 2007 of Science, University of Peradeniya
2010 – 2012 **Member of Faculty Sub-Committee on Applied Sciences Degree Programme**
2010 – 2016 **Member of Faculty Curriculum Development Committee**
2010 – 2013 **Senior Treasurer of Applied Sciences Society**, Faculty of Science, UoP
2010 – 2012 **Member of Faculty Library Committee**, Faculty of Science, University of Peradeniya
2010 – 2011 **Member of Committee on Higher Education for Twentieth Century (HETC)** Faculty
of Science, University of Peradeniya
2007 – 2013 **Member, Editorial Board**, Ceylon Journal of Science (Biological Science)
2008 – date **Guest Editor**, SCIPUB Team Bio Section of American Journal of Applied Sciences
2008 – date **Member, Editorial Board**, Open Ecology Journal, Bentham Science Publishers
2007/2008 **Member, National Bioethics Committee**, National Science Foundation, Sri Lanka
2006 – 2008 **Member, Quality Assurance and Accreditation Cell**, Faculty of Science, UoP
2006 – 2007 **Deputy Coordinator**, World Bank Project on Improving Relevance and Quality of
Undergraduate Education (IRQUE) Project, Faculty of Science, UoP
2005 – 2008 **Senior Treasurer, Rotaract Club**, University of Peradeniya
2004 – 2008 **Faculty Coordinator, United Nations Population Fund -UNFPA Project**

2003 – 2006	Coordinator, M.Sc. in Science Education (Biology Education), Postgraduate Institute of Science, University of Peradeniya
2003 – 2008	Member, Faculty Research Committee , Faculty of Science, University of Peradeniya
2002 – 2006	Senior Student Counsellor , Faculty of Science, University of Peradeniya

TEACHING

Undergraduate	Applied Parasitology, Scientific Writing and Presentation, Invertebrate Diversity, Vector Borne Diseases, Research Methodology and Data Analysis.
Graduate	M.Sc. in Science Education (Biology Education) – Applied Biology M.Sc. in Experimental Biotechnology – Basic Immunology M.Sc. in Environmental Science – Basic Biology

PROFESSIONAL & ACADEMIC MEMBERSHIPS

2020 to date	Member of American Society of Microbiology (ASM)
2016 to date	Institute of Biology, Sri Lanka (Life Member)
2014 to date	British Herpetology Society (Member)
2011 to date	Alumni Association of University of Peradeniya AAUP (Life Member)
2010 to date	University of Peradeniya Science Alumni Association UPSAA (Life Member)
2003 to date	Allergy and Immunology Society of Sri Lanka (Life Member)
2003 to date	Alumni Association, Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John's Canada (Life)
2001 to 2003	Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology (American Zoologist)
2001 to 2003	Animal Behaviour Society
1994 to date	Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science (Life Member)
1989 to date	Wild Life and Nature Protection Society of Sri Lanka (Life Member)

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Parasitology

- Ticks and Tick-borne Diseases: Eco-epidemiology of tick infestations and tick-borne diseases; Otoacariasis of humans and domesticated animals; Diversity, distribution, life cycle, seasonal dynamics, control methods, and acaricide resistance in ticks infesting pets and livestock animals.
- Malaria: Assessment of genes linked to drug resistance, genetic diversity of the malaria parasite, hidden parasite reservoirs in the human host; Community surveys on antimalarial stewardship.
- Gastrointestinal (GI) Parasites: Effect of GI parasites of humans on microbiota and respiratory diseases; Diversity, distribution, prevalence, and epidemiology of GI and blood parasites in wild, captive and domesticated animals and their zoonotic and anthroponotic potential.
- Canine haemoparasites: Diversity, prevalence, distribution, and phylogenetics of hemoparasites of free-roaming, privately owned and military working dogs; Vectors of hemoparasites of dogs.

Disease Ecology

- Amphibian deformities: Effect of anthropogenic and natural stressors on amphibian populations especially focusing the lone and combined effects of pesticides, ultraviolet B radiation and trematode infections on amphibian specie;. Laboratory experiments integrated with mesocosm and field surveys to understand the processes in natural systems.

- Fish population dynamics: Effect of water quality parameters, chemical pollutants and faecal coliform bacteria on the diversity, distribution and abundance of freshwater fish populations.

Conservation Biology

- Sea Turtles: genetic diversity, nest paternity, behavioral and biometric data of nesting females and hatchlings; Contribution of turtle hatcheries towards sea turtle conservation; Hatching success of hatchery relocated sea turtle eggs; These are matched with rural community based socio-ecological research to assess their contribution towards sea turtles conservation and to build capacity to utilize the natural resources for sustainable tourism while providing local impetus to support the conservation of turtles and their natural environment.
- Plastic Pollution: Levels of microplastics in food, consumable items and environment; Effect of plastics and microplastics on threatened taxa; Social surveys on community awareness, practices and attitudes towards plastic consumption and pollution.

GRADUATE STUDENTS ALONG WITH THEIR THESES TITLES

1. Ms. Uthpala A. Jayawardena - M.Phil. (2008) Thesis title: Development of deformities in amphibians: effect of pesticides, trematode infection and UV (Principal supervisor)
2. Mr. E.M. Lalith Ekanayake – Ph.D. (2012) Thesis title: Nesting behaviour, reproductive output, genetic structure and nest paternity of green turtles nesting at Kosgoda rookery in Sri Lanka. (Principal supervisor)
3. Mr. D.B. Jayasinghe – M.Sc. in Science Education (2012) Problems faced by students and teachers in learning and teaching Agriculture in G.C.E. (A/L) in Kandy and Nuwara Eliya districts in the Central Province. (Single supervisor)
4. Ms. Sodini Ariyaratne – M.Phil. (2015) Thesis Title: Otoacariasis in Sri Lanka: Prevalence, taxonomy and distribution of tick species infesting humans. (Single supervisor)
5. Mr. Prasanga Dyes M.Phil. (2016) Thesis Title: Life history, seasonal dynamics, infectious agents and control of spinose ear tick *Otobius megnini* associated with horse otoacariasis in Sri Lanka (Single supervisor)
6. Ms Praveena Jeganathan M.Phil. (2017) Thesis title: Knowledge, practices and attitudes of fruits and vegetable farmers on pesticide usage and the effect of common pesticides on the common hourglass tree frog *Polypedates cruciger* (Single supervisor)
7. Ms Nuwandhi U.K. Pathirana M.Phil (2018) Thesis title: Cercariae induced malformation and their post-metamorphic effect (Principal supervisor)
8. Ms. Kalpanie Bandaranayake. M.Phil. (2019) Thesis Title: Seasonality, distribution and prevalence of human otoacariasis in Anuradhapura district (Principal supervisor)
9. Ms. Saranga Yathramullage. Ph.D. (2020) Thesis Title: Role of small mammals as reservoir hosts of rickettsioses and leptospirosis infections in Sri Lanka (Co-supervisor)
10. Mr Nuwan Karunaratne M.Phil (Registered in June 2014) Thesis title: Trematode induced deformities and toxicity to agrochemicals and ultraviolet radiation in amphibians (Principal Supervisor) Thesis in preparation
11. Ms Santhushya Hewapathirana M.Phil (Registered in Feb 2016) Thesis title: Factors affecting the nest success and sex ratio of hatchery relocated green turtle and olive ridley eggs (Single Supervisor) Thesis in preparation
12. Dr Priyantha Sampath Jayathilake Ph.D. (Registered in May 2016) Thesis title: Canine vector borne diseases: prevalence, diversity and phylogenetics of species infecting dogs in Sri Lanka (Principal supervisor) work in progress
13. Ms. Gayani Kapukotuwa M.Phil (Registered in September 2017) Effect of physicochemical properties and faecal indicator bacteria on the distribution, diversity and abundance of freshwater fishes in Rawan oya tributary (Co-supervisor) work in progress.

14. Ms. Sodini Ariyaratne Ph.D. (Registered in August 2019) Tick borne spotted fever group rickettsioses in the Central Province: types of pathogens, vertebrate reservoir host community composition and tick species involved in circulation and maintenance of pathogens. (Principal Supervisor) Work in progress.
15. Ms. Shanika Dissanayake M.Sc. in Biodiversity, Ecotourism and Environmental Management (2020) Tentative Title: Environmental auditing in Ecosystem: occurrence, abundance and water quality characteristics of dengue vector breeding containers in ecotourism area of Trincomalee District.
16. Ms Sumudu Jayakody M.Sc. in Biodiversity, Ecotourism and Environmental Management (2020) Title: Voluntourism: Involvement and activities of international volunteer tourists and related projects for biodiversity conservation in Sri Lanka.
17. Ms. Yasinthi Amarasiri M.Sc. in Biodiversity, Ecotourism and Environmental Management. Title: Ecotourism Practices and Management Strategies under COVID-19 Pandemic in Urban Hotels Located in the Western Province of Sri Lanka. Work in progress.

RESEARCH GRANTS

YEAR	AWARDING BODY	PROJECT TITLE	DURATION
2020	National Research Council (NRC), Sri Lanka	Canine tick-borne infections: reservoirs, tick vectors and zoonotic disease risk of rickettsial infections	3 years
2020	British Chelonia Group (BCG) Conservation Grant *	Changes in sea turtle egg sales and use in Sri Lanka	1 year
2019	National Science Foundation (NSF), Sri Lanka	Tick borne spotted fever group rickettsioses in the Central Province: types of pathogens, vertebrate reservoir host community composition and tick species involved in circulation and maintenance of pathogens	3 years. Work in Progress
2018	NAGOA Natural Environment Foundation	Geographic structure of mitochondrial and nuclear gene polymorphisms in Sri Lankan loggerhead population	2 years. Work in progress
2017	University of Peradeniya Grants (URG)	Epidemiological survey of soil-transmitted nematodes (STNs) in humans and domesticated animals in low socio-economical communities in Sri Lanka	Completed
2016	University of Peradeniya Grants (URG)*	Canine piroplasmiasis in Sri Lanka: prevalence, diversity and phylogenetics of <i>Babesia</i> and <i>Theileria</i> species infecting dogs	Completed
2014	National Science Foundation (NSF), Sri Lanka	Identifying the culprits threatening local amphibians: trematode induced deformities and toxicity to agrochemicals and ultraviolet radiation	Completed
2014	University of Peradeniya Grants (URG)	Success of clutch relocation and sex ratio of hatchery incubated sea turtles eggs	Completed

2011	National Research Council (NRC), Sri Lanka	Human and animal (domestic) otoacariasis in Sri Lanka: Seasonality, risk factors and the role of intra-aural ticks as disease carrying vectors	Completed
2012	Higher Education for the Twentieth Century (HETC) Window 3*	Role of non-Volant small mammals as reservoir hosts of rickettsioses and leptospirosis infections in Sri Lanka	Completed
2012	University of Peradeniya Grants (URG)	Effect of nest depth, nest temperature and shading on the hatching and emergence success sea turtle nests relocated in sea turtle hatcheries in Sri Lanka	Completed
2012	Postgraduate Institute of Science, UoP	Research grant for publications	Completed
2011	University of Peradeniya Grants (URG)	Distribution and prevalence of ticks associated with human otoacariasis	Completed
2007	Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA)	Determination of the hidden malaria parasite in human host	Completed
2007	National Science Foundation (NSF), Sri Lanka	Distribution and prevalence of ticks associated with human otoacariasis	Completed
2006	National Research Council (NRC), Sri Lanka	Assessment of pyrimethamine/ sulfadoxine and chloroquine resistance in <i>Plasmodium falciparum</i> and <i>P. vivax</i> malaria in Sri Lanka	Completed
2005	National Science Foundation (NSF), Sri Lanka	Effect of pesticides and trematode infection on the development of limb deformities in frogs	Completed
2005	National Science Foundation (NSF), Sri Lanka *	Genetic diversity and nest paternity of green turtles (<i>Chelonia mydas</i>) in Sri Lanka	Completed
2005	International Foundation for Science (IFS) Sweden	Genetic diversity and nest paternity of green turtles (<i>Chelonia mydas</i>) in Sri Lanka	Completed
2004	Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA)	Antimalarial drug resistance in Sri Lanka	Completed

* Co-investigator

TRAVEL & OTHER GRANTS

YEAR	AWARDING BODY	PURPOSE
2019, 2018, 2017, 2015, 2010	International Sea Turtle Society	Conference Grant
2018, 2014, 2012, 2010	National Science Foundation, Sri Lanka	Travel Grant
2014	International Research Centre, UoP	Travel Grant
2004	National Science Foundation, Sri Lanka	Travel/Training

2012	National Science Foundation, Sri Lanka	Conference Grant
2012	International Research Centre, UoP	Conference Grant

RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS (INDEXED AND REFERRED JOURNALS)

1. Jayatilaka, P.S., **Rajakaruna, R.S.**, Wijerathna, H.S.U., Fernando, A.D.S. Ginarathne, K.H.M., Naullage, N.G.R.K., Silva, S.N.S., Thananjayan, K., Amarasiri, L.K.H.R.T., Jayasundara, N.P.K., Mallawa, M.R.C.K. and Dangolla (Submitted) Canine vector-borne diseases: island-wide survey of working dogs of the Sri Lanka Air Force, free-roaming, and privately-owned dogs. *Veterinary Parasitology*.
2. Bandaranayaka, K.O., Dissanyakae, U.I., and **Rajakaruna, R.S.** (Submitted on Dec 29, 2020) Geographic distribution of dog tick species in Sri Lanka and the life cycle of brown dog tick, *Rhipicephalus sanguineus* under laboratory conditions. *Experimental and Applied Acarology*
3. Kapukotuwa, R.W.M.G.K., Weerakoon, K.C., Abeysekara, C.L. and **Rajakaruna R.S.** (Submitted on December 7, 2020) Anthropogenic activities of the proximate community along Rawan oya tributary of Mahaweli river in Kandy District, Sri Lanka. *International Journal of Environment and Pollution*
4. March, D.T., Melvin, S., Van de Merwe, J., Ariel, E., Blyde, D., Marshall, K., **Rajakaruna, R.S.**, Peters, A., Christidis, L., Kelaher, B.P. (submitted) Assessment of traditional and novel biomarkers for green sea turtles (*Chelonia mydas*) in the wild and undergoing rehabilitation
5. Jeganathan, P. and **Rajakaruna, R.S.** (submitted) Knowledge, attitude and practices of fruits and vegetable farmers on pesticide usage Sri Lanka. *International Journal of Environmental Health Research*.
6. Bandaranayaka, K.O., Kularatne, S.A.M., Rajapakse, R.P.V.J., Abeysundara, U.B., Rajapaksha, R.M.M.A. and **Rajakaruna, R.S.** (Submitted) Seasonality and risk factors of human otoacariasis in two climatically different districts, Kandy and Anuradhapura in Sri Lanka. *Acta Parasitologica*.
7. Jeganathan, P. and **Rajakaruna, R.S.** (Submitted on August 2, 2020) Testicular oocytes in the common hourglass tree frog exposed to pesticides. *Ceylon Journal of Science*
8. Diyes, G.C.P., Bandara, K.M.U.J., **Rajakaruna, R.S.** and Karunaratne, S.H.P.P. (Under review) Acaricide resistance in the spinose ear tick, *Otobius megnini* (Acari: Argasidae) infesting racehorses in Sri Lanka. *Journal of the National Science Foundation*
9. Thilakarathne, S.S., **Rajakaruna, R.S.**, Fernando, D., Rajapakse, R.P.V.J. and Perera, P.K. (Under review) Comparison of gastro-intestinal parasites with zoonotic and anthroponotic potential in two subspecies of toque macaque (*Macaca sinica*) in Sri Lanka. *Veterinary Parasitology: Regional Studies and Reports*
10. Diyes, G.C.P. and **Rajakaruna, R.S.** (2021) Teratological anomalies of an adult Asiatic blue tick, *Rhipicephalus microplus* (Acari: Ixodidae) *Systematic and Applied Acarology*. 26(1): 320–324.
11. Bandaranayaka, K.O., Dissanayake, U.I. and **Rajakaruna, R.S.** (2021) Experimental aspects of life cycle of *Rhipicephalus (Boophilus) microplus* and *Hyalomma isaaci* on New Zealand white rabbits. *Ceylon Journal of Science*. Accepted.
12. Sepalage, C.S. and **Rajakaruna, R.S.** (2020) Gastro-intestinal helminth and protozoan infections of wild mammals in four major national parks in Sri Lanka. *Journal of Threatened Taxa*. 12: 17093–17104 DOI: 10.11609/jott.5160.12.15.17093-17104
13. Mashkour, N., Ahasan, S., Barnes, A., Bell, I., Bowater, R., Elliman, J., Flint, M., Hamann, M., Jakob-Hoff, M., Jones, K., Orduna, S.K., Loganathan, A.L., **Rajakaruna, R.**, Mark Read, M., Walker, G., Work, T., Wittaker, M., Baverstock, W., Blyde, D., Crespo-Picazo, J.L., Eghbali, M., Freggi, D., Gardner, B., Giliam, J., Hale, H., Hyland, K.P., March, D., Mobaraki, A., Mohammadi, M., Nicolle, N., Owens, L., Parga, M., Robinson, D., Saladin, C., Spiby, K., Hipolito, T.V., Wrobel,

- D., Young, E. and Ariel A. (2020) Disease Risk Analysis in sea turtles: A baseline study to inform conservation efforts. *PLoSOne*. DOI: [10.1101/2020.03.10.985432](https://doi.org/10.1101/2020.03.10.985432)
14. Dangolla, A., Wijesundara, D.L.R., Blair, D., Fernando, D.D., Wijesundera, K.K., Chathuranga, W.G.D. de Silva W.A.P.P. and **Rajakaruna R.S.** (2020) Canine trypanosomosis in Sri Lanka: An emerging problem reported from three distinct geographic locations. *Parasitology International*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.parint.2020.102129>.
 15. Sepalage, C.S., Perera, P.K. and **Rajakaruna, R.S.** (2020) Enteric helminthiasis in dogs of University of Peradeniya premises: a potential public health problem. *Ceylon Journal of Science* 49: 29-36 DOI: <http://doi.org/10.4038/cjs.v49i1.7703>.
 16. **Rajakaruna, R.S.**, Pemadasa, M.G.N.M., Elepathage, M. and Abeysundara, S.P. (2020) Fisher perception and practices of sea turtle bycatch in Sri Lanka. *Indian Ocean Turtle Newsletter* 31: 2-13.
 17. **Rajakaruna, R.S.** and Diyes, G.C.P. (2019) Spinose ear tick *Otobius megnini* infestations in race horses. In *Ticks and Tick Borne pathogens*. Editors: M. Abubakar and P.K. Perera. InTechOpen.
 18. Pathirana, N.U.K., Meegaskumbura, M. and **Rajakaruna, R.S.** (2019) Infection sequence alters disease severity—Effects of the sequential exposure of two larval trematodes to *Polypedates cruciger* tadpoles. *Ecology and Evolution* 1-11. DOI: 10.1002/ece3.5180.
 19. Pathirana, N.U.K., Meegaskumbura, M. and **Rajakaruna, R.S.** (2019) Host resistance and tolerance to parasitism: age dependent fitness consequences in common hourglass tree frog *Polypedates cruciger* exposed to two larval trematodes. *Canadian Journal of Zoology*.97: 11 <https://doi.org/10.1139/cjz-2018-0126>.
 20. Jayatilaka, P.S., Pinnagoda, P.P.H., Gunawardena, P.E., Ginarathne, K.M.H., Silva, I.D., Wijeyawardena, N., Mallawa, M.R.C.K., Karunaratne, T.M.K., Dangolla, A and **Rajakaruna, R.S.** (2019) Emergence of a thrombocytopenic disorder in a group of working dogs of Sri Lanka Air Force. *Sri Lanka Veterinary Journal* 65:13-15.
 21. Bandaranayaka, K.O., Rajapakse, R.P.V.J. and **Rajakaruna, R.S.** (2019) Potentially zoonotic gastrointestinal parasites of dogs in Lunugala Tea estate community in Central Sri Lanka. *Ceylon Journal of Science*. 48: 43–50. DOI: <http://doi.org/10.4038/cjs.v48i1.7587>.
 22. Dyes, G.C.P., Rajapakse, R.P.V.J. and **Rajakaruna R.S.** (2018) Molecular evidence of *Babesia* infections in Spinose ear tick, *Otobius megnini* infesting stabled horses in Nuwara Eliya racecourse: A case study. *Ceylon Journal of Science* 47(4) 2018: 405-409.
 23. Abeyssekara, N.N., Rajapakse, R.P.V.J. and **Rajakaruna, R.S.** (2018) Comparative cross-sectional survey on gastrointestinal parasites of captive, semi-captive, and wild Elephants of Sri Lanka *Journal of Threatened Taxa*. 10(5): 11583–11594.
 24. Pathirana, N.U.K. and **Rajakaruna, R.S.** (2018) Trematode infections in frogs: Do all cercarial morphotypes infect and induce effects on the common hourglass tree frog, *Polypedates cruciger*? *Ceylon Journal of Science*. 47: 319-330. DOI: <http://doi.org/10.4038/cjs.v47i4.7549>
 25. Phillott, A., Hewapathirana, S., and Rajakaruna, R.S. (2018) Unregulated numbers and management practices of sea turtle hatcheries: An on-going concern in Sri Lanka. *Indian Ocean Turtle Newsletter*. 27: 8-17.
 26. Ratnayake, Y. and **Rajakaruna, R.S.** (2018) Cocktail effect of Profenophos and Abamectin on tadpoles of Asian Common Toad (*Duttaphrynus melanostictus*) *Ceylon Journal of Science* 47: 185-194.
 27. Diyes, P., Karunaratne, N., Silva, S., Karunaratne, I. and **Rajakaruna, R.S.** (2017) Ants as potential biological control agents of spinose ear tick, *Otobius megnini* (Dugès) associated with horse otoacariasis in Sri Lanka. *Acarologia* 57: 747-753 DOI: 10.1051/acarologia/20174200.
 28. Sands, F., Apanaskevich, D., Matthee, S., Horak, I., Harrison, A., Karim, S., Mohammad, M., Mumcuoglu, K., **Rajakaruna, R.S.**, Santos-Silva, M., Kamani, J. and Matthee, C. (2017) Effects of tectonics and large scale climatic changes on the evolutionary history of *Hyalomma* ticks. *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution* 114: 153–165.
 29. Jenkins, T.P., Rathnayake, Y, Perera, P.K., Peachey, L.E., Nolan, M.J. Krause L., **Rajakaruna, R.S.** Cantacessi, C. (2017) Infections by human gastrointestinal helminths are associated with changes

- in faecal microbiota diversity and composition. *PLoS ONE* 12(9): doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0184719
30. Jayawardena, U.A., Rohr, J.R., Amerasinghe, P.H. Navaratne, A.N., and **Rajakaruna, R.S.** (2017) Effects of agrochemicals on disease severity of *Acanthostomum burminis* infections (Digenea: Trematoda) in the Asian common toad, *Duttaphrynus melanostictus* *BMC Journal of Zoology*. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1101/165795>.
 31. Ekanayake, E.M.L., Kapurusinghe, T., Saman, M.M., Rathanakumara, D.S., Samaraweera, P., and **Rajakaruna, R.S.** (2017) Genetic diversity of the green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) population nesting at Kosgoda rookery, Sri Lanka. *Journal of Threatened Taxa*. 9(6): 10261–10268.
 32. Dyes, G.C.P., Apanaskevich, D.A. and **Rajakaruna R.S.** (2017) Life cycle of *Rhipicephalus haemaphysaloides* under laboratory conditions. *Medical and Veterinary Entomology* DOI:10.1111/mve.12238.
 33. Kobbekaduwa, V, Fillieux, C., Thudugala, A., Rajapakse, R.P.V.J. and **Rajakaruna, R.S.** (2017) First record of tapeworm *Moniezia* (Cestoda: Anoplocephalidae) infections in leopards: Coprological survey of gastrointestinal parasites of wild and captive cats in Sri Lanka. *Journal of Threatened Taxa* 9(3): 9956–9961.
 34. Dissanayake, S., Rajapakse, R.P.V.J. and **Rajakaruna, R.S.** (2017) Gastrointestinal parasites of domesticated and feral horses (*Equus caballus*) in Sri Lanka. *Ceylon Journal of Science*.46: 17-26. DOI: <http://doi.org/10.4038/cjs.v46i1.7414>.
 35. Dyes, G.C.P. and **Rajakaruna R.S.** (2016) Life cycle of Spinose ear tick, *Otobius megnini* (Acari: Argasidae) infesting the race horses in Nuwara Eliya, Sri Lanka. *Acta Tropica* DOI: 10.1016/j.actatropica.2016.11.026
 36. Ekanayake, E.M.L., Kapurusinghe, T., Saman, M.M., Rathanakumara, D.S., Samaraweera, P., and **Rajakaruna, R.S.** (2016) Reproductive Output and Morphometrics of Green Turtle, *Chelonia mydas* Nesting at the Kosgoda Rookery in Sri Lanka. *Ceylon Journal of Science* 45:103-116.
 37. Ariyaratne, S., Apanaskevich, D., Amerasinghe, P.H. and **Rajakaruna, R.S.** (2016) Diversity and distribution of tick species (Acari: Ixodidae) associated with human otoacariasis and socio-ecological risk factors of tick infestations in Sri Lanka. *Experimental and Applied Acarology*. DOI 10.1007/s10493-016-0056-z
 38. Dyes, G.C.P. and **Rajakaruna R.S.** (2016) Seasonal dynamics of spinose ear tick *Otobius megnini* associated with horse otoacariasis in Sri Lanka. *Acta Tropica*. 159:170-175.
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57. Liyanaarachchi, D.R., **Rajakaruna, R.S.**, Dikkumbura, A.W. and Rajapaksha, R.P.V.J. (2014) Zoonotic surveillance for tick-borne spotted fever group rickettsia in domestic and wild animals in Sri Lanka. *One Health International Conference. Sri Lanka*.
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62. Diyes, G.C.P., Akalanka, P.M. and **Rajakaruna R.S.** (2014) Life cycle of spinose ear tick *Otobius megnini* associated with horse otoacariasis in Sri Lanka. *iPURSE Peradeniya, Sri Lanka*.
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OTHER PROFESSIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS

- 2020 Member of the Committee on Development of Strategic Plan 2021-2025 of the University. University of Peradeniya

- 2020 Member and Repertoire of the Committee on Zoology Subject Benchmark Statement, Quality Assurance Council of the UGC
 - 2020 Member of the Faculty Policy Document Committee, Faculty of Science, University of Peradeniya
 - 2016 Member of the Editorial Committee at the Research Congress of Postgraduate Institute of Science University of Peradeniya
 - 2015 Member of the Editorial Committee, iPURSE Peradeniya University International Research Sessions
 - Jan 2015 Resource Person at the Training Workshop for G.C.E. (A/L- Science Stream) Teachers of the Central Province (15.12.2015 to 20.01.2015)
 - 2014 / 2015 Member of the Advisory Committee and the Organizing Committee at the PGIS Research Congress, Postgraduate Institute of Science University of Peradeniya
 - Mar 6,7 2014 Resource Person of the National Workshop on Scientific Writing organized by the Postgraduate Institute of Science, University of Peradeniya and National Science Foundation, Sri Lanka
 - Sep 5, 6 2014 Chairperson and Resource Person of One Health International Conference, Faculty of Medicine, University of Peradeniya.
 - Nov 28, 29, 2012 Coordinator, Conference on Herpetological Conservation and Biology organized by the Board of Science in Zoological Sciences, Postgraduate Institute of Science, University of Peradeniya
 - 2012 Member of the Organizing Committee, University of Peradeniya Annual Convocation
 - Oct 20, 2010 Resource Person, Workshop for G.C.E. A/L Biology Teachers organized by the NIE and Board of Study in Science Education, Postgraduate Institute of Science, University of Peradeniya.
 - Sep 21, 2007 Coordinator & Resource Person, Workshop on Malaria Risk Management using Climate Information organized by the IRI and FECT and PGIS
 - Aug 28/29 06 Resource Person, Symposium on Water, Environment and Health Research in Sri Lanka to commemorate the work of Dr. F.P. Amerasinghe organized by the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), Sri Lanka
 - July 2006 Resource Person, Workshop for G.C.E. A/L Biology Teachers of the Uva Province organized by the Science Education Unit, University of Peradeniya
 - May 24, 2006 Coordinator, one-day workshop on Reproductive Health and Counseling conducted by the Faculty of Science, University of Peradeniya in collaboration with the UGC and UNFPA for the new entrants to the faculty
 - Sept 15/16, 05 Co-Coordinator of the National Symposium on Mosquito Control. PGIS, UoP
 - May 20, 2005 Resource person, seminar on Dissemination of knowledge on malaria drug resistance in endemic areas in Sri Lanka. Anti Malaria Campaign, Colombo
 - May 19, 2005 Resource person/ Coordinator of one-day workshop on Molecular markers of antimalarial drug resistance at the Department of Molecular Biology & Biotechnology, University of Peradeniya in collaboration with Centre for Medical Parasitology, University of Copenhagen, Denmark for the Regional Medical Officers of the Anti Malaria Campaign, Sri Lanka
 - May 6, 2005 Coordinator of one-day workshop on Reproductive Health and Counseling conducted by the Faculty of Science, University of Peradeniya in collaboration with the UGC and UNFPA for the new entrants to the faculty
 - Nov 25, 2004 Coordinator of Community Workshop and Health Camp on Malaria, in relation to the Health, Environment, Water resources and Livelihoods of the stakeholders in the Upper Yan Oya watershed Anuradhapura District conducted by the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), Anti Malaria Campaign (AMC), Mahaweli Authority of Sri Lanka (MASL) and University of Peradeniya
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- 2003 & 2004 Member of the Organizing Committee, Peradeniya University Research Sessions (PURSE)
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CONTRIBUTION TO NATIONAL EXAMINATIONS

Chief Examiner for marking at the G.C.E./Advance Level Examination (2004)

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

2016 & 2015 **Athletics:** First place in 4x100 m women's team at the University Staff Sports Program conducted by the Department of Physical Education, UoP

2012, 2014 & 2016 **Badminton:** Member of the Champion team at the University Staff Sports Program conducted by the Department of Physical Education, UoP

2011 **Table Tennis:** Member of the Champion team & **Badminton:** Member of the Runner-up team at the University Staff Sports Program conducted by the Department of Physical Education, UoP
