



**Department of Zoology**  
**Faculty of Science / University of Peradeniya**



**Dr. D.R.G.W.B. Ellepola**

*B.Sc. (Perad.), M.Phil. (Perad.), Ph.D. (CHN)*

**Lecturer (Probationary)**

✉ [gajaba.ellepola@pdn.ac.lk](mailto:gajaba.ellepola@pdn.ac.lk)

✉ [gajaba3@gmail.com](mailto:gajaba3@gmail.com)

☎ +94 77 184 4719

🔗 #

## About Me

I am an evolutionary ecologist who has extensive field experience and publications on many faunal groups. My research interests are Evolutionary Ecology, Coral reef ecology and conservation and wildlife conservation.

## Higher Education Qualifications

🎓 **PhD**

Guangxi University  
China  
(2023)

🎓 **MPhil**

Post Graduate Institute of Science,  
University of Peradeniya  
Sri Lanka  
(2017)

🎓 **BSc**

University of Peradeniya  
Sri Lanka  
(2013)

## Awards, Scholarships, Memberships & Fellowships



Chinese Government Scholarship



The Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology (SCIB)



Society for Conservation Biology - Asia section (SCB-Asia)

## Positions Held



Graduate Research Assistant, Guangxi University, China- (2017-2023)



Lecturer (Probationary), Department of Zoology, University of Peradeniya- (2017- to date)



Lecturer (Probationary), Department of Zoology, The Open University of Sri Lanka- (2014-2017)



Temporary Academic Staff, Department of Zoology, University of Peradeniya- (2012-2013)



Research Scientist, Wildlife Research and Conservation Trust (WRCT)- (2010 to present)

## My Teachings



Nothing to show under this subheading !!!

## Research Interests (Research Fields/ Projects)

Evolution of the climatic niche of species, Trait evolution in organisms, Wildlife ecology, Coral reef restoration through artificial propagation methods, coral reef ecology, Evolutionary Ecology of Cave fishes, , Taxidermy, Gut microbiome, Amphibian disease ecology

## Ongoing Research and Projects



### **Participatory coral reef research and rehabilitation in the East coast of Sri Lanka**

A project funded by the Tokyo Cement Group (PLC). The project includes restoring the destroyed coral reef habitats in the East coast of Sri Lanka, through coral transplantation methods using artificial propagation techniques and introduced substrate.



### **Evolution of the climatic niches of old world tree frogs (Rhacophoridae)**



### **Amphibian disease ecology on special emphasis to Bd, Bsal, Ranaviruses and Severe Perkinsea infection**



### **Trait evolution in Sinocyclocheilus cave fish in southern China**



### **Gut microbiome studies of Cave fishes**



### **Species distribution modelling**

## Key Publications



Communications Biology - (2022)

The role of climate and islands in species diversification and reproductive-mode evolution of Old World tree frogs



Molecular phylogenetics and Evolution - (2022)

Evolving in the darkness: phylogenomics of *Sinocyclocheilus* cavefishes highlights recent diversification and cryptic diversity.

## Conferences



**Conservation Asia 2016**

**HELD AT :** National University of Singapore, Singapore - (June - 2 July 2016)

**TOPIC :** *Society for Conservation Biology Asia section. Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation Asia-Pacific*



**3rd Regional conference of the society for conservation biology**

**HELD AT :** Melaka, Malaysia - (2014)

**TOPIC :** *Asia section 2014*



**Student Conference on Conservation Science**

**HELD AT :** Bangalore - (2013)



**The Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology (SCIB)**

**HELD AT :** United States - (2021)

**TOPIC :** *Climatic correlates of the diversification in Old World tree frogs: cool-wet regions and islands as refuges and species pumps*

## My Publications

Please goto the website.

<https://sci.pdn.ac.lk/zoology/staff/Gajaba-Ellepola>