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)

Senior Lecturer Gr II

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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	MPhil	BSc
Guangxi University China (2023)	Post Graduate Institute of Science, University of Peradeniya Sri Lanka (2017)	University of Peradeniya Sri Lanka (2013)

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Awards, Scholarships, Memberships & Fellowships

- Chinese Government Scholarship
- The Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology (SCIB)
- Society for Conservation Biology - Asia section (SCB-Asia)

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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 Lanaka- (2014-2017)
- Temporary Academic Staff, Department of Zoology, University of Peradeniya- (2012-2013)
- Reasearch Scientist, Wildlife Research and Conservation Trust (WRCT)- (2010 to present)

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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

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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

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