



Department of Zoology Faculty of Science / University of Peradeniya



Dr. Piyumali K. Perera

B.Sc. (Hons.) (Perad.), Ph.D. (University of Melbourne, Australia)

Senior Lecturer (Grade II)

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About Me

I graduated from University of Peradeniya with a BSc (Hons) degree in Zoology in 2011. In 2012, I received International Postgraduate Research Scholarship and Australian Postgraduate Award to undertake my PhD in Parasitology at the University of Melbourne, Australia. During my PhD (from 2012 to 2015), I have conducted molecular epidemiological investigations of *Theileria orientalis* in cattle, developed advanced molecular diagnostic techniques for the rapid detection of the parasite and have also estimated the economic impact of oriental theileriosis on dairy industry in Australia. Following the successful completion of my PhD with 7 first author peer-reviewed papers and several awards received in recognition of the outstanding research work performed during the PhD (e.g., VW officer prize in Veterinary Science, Dairy Farmers of Victoria Postgraduate Scholarship, World Association for the Advancement of Veterinary Parasitology - Louisiana State University Award), I joined University of Peradeniya as a Lecturer in 2015. Currently, I have published over 15 peer-reviewed research articles, cited over 350 times (h-index 10) and invited book chapters on ticks and tick-borne diseases. My research interests are in the fields of zoonotic parasites, ticks and tick-borne diseases, soil transmitted helminths and associations of human gastro-intestinal parasites with asthma/allergies and gut microbiome.

Higher Education Qualifications

🎓 **PhD**

The University of Melbourne
Australia
(2015)

🎓 **BSc**

University of Peradeniya
Sri Lanka
(2011)

Awards, Scholarships, Memberships & Fellowships



Australian Society for Parasitology (ASP) student conference travel grant (2015)



World Association for the Advancement of Veterinary Parasitology - Louisiana State University Travel Award (2015)



VW officer prize in Veterinary Science through Faculty of Veterinary Science, the University of Melbourne (2014)



Australian Society for Parasitology (ASP) student conference travel grant (2014)



Dairy Farmers of Victoria Postgraduate Scholarship through Faculty of Veterinary Science, the University of Melbourne (2013)



Australian Society for Parasitology (ASP) student conference travel grant (2013)



Australian Postgraduate Award for 2013



International Postgraduate Research Scholarship for 2013



Runner-up for the abstract and presentation in the Postgraduate Symposium (pre-confirmed PhD category) by Faculty of Veterinary Science, the University of Melbourne (2012)



Graduate Teaching Assistantship for 2012 (declined) and Graduate Differential Fee Supplement for 2012 by University of Alberta, Canada (declined)



Melbourne International Fee Remission Scholarship for 2012



Melbourne International Research Scholarship for 2011



University Award for Academic Excellence 2010/2011 by Faculty of Science, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka (2012)



Member of Royal Society of Victoria, Australia



Member at the Australian Society for Parasitology (ASP)



University of Peradeniya Research Grant for 2018



Member of the Biomedical Sciences Board of Study - Postgraduate Institute of Science (PGIS)



Award of Excellence in Research for 2019, Faculty of Science, University of Peradeniya








Award of Excellence in Teaching for 2019/2020, Faculty of Science, University of Peradeniya

Positions Held

-  Secretary - Board of Study in Biomedical Sciences- (2023 - 2026)
-  Member - Internal Quality Assurance Cell, Faculty of Science- (2023)
-  Secretary/PGIS Research Congress (RESCON), Postgraduate Institute of Science, University of Peradeniya- (2022)
-  Senior Student Counsellor for Department of Zoology, University of Peradeniya- (2022-2023)
-  Secretary - Student Advisory and Welfare Committee- (2022 - 2025)
-  Secretary/Board of Study in Zoological Sciences- (2021 - 2023)
-  Senior Lecturer (Grade II) - University of Peradeniya- (September 2020 - now)
-  Member - Board of Study in Biomedical Sciences, Postgraduate Institute of Science- (2019 - 2026)
-  Lecturer - University of Peradeniya- (2017-2020)
-  Temporary Lecturer, University of Peradeniya- (2015-2016)
-  Demonstrator, the University of Melbourne- (2012-2015)
-  Temporary Demonstrator, University of Peradeniya- (2011-2012)

My Teachings

-  BIO1072: Introductory Microbiology
-  ZL206: Invertebrate Diversity
-  ZL327: Animal Genetics and Molecular Biological Techniques
-  ZL404: Applied Parasitology
-  ZL428: Independent Study & Seminar

Research Interests (Research Fields/ Projects)

Parasitology, Epidemiology, Microbiology, Molecular Diagnostic Techniques

Ongoing Research and Projects



Comparison of gastro-intestinal parasites with zoonotic and anthroponotic potential in two subspecies of toque macaque (*Macaca sinica*) in Sri Lanka

Conducted by Ms. Sandani Thilakaratne (Honours student in Zoology) Funded by University of Peradeniya Research Grants



Role of gut microbiota, helminth infection and their interaction in asthma in children naturally infected with helminths in Eastern Province, Sri Lanka

In collaboration with Department of Veterinary Medicine, University of Cambridge and Melbourne School of Population and Global Health, the University of Melbourne.



Zoonotic gastro-intestinal parasites of dogs in a remote tea-growing area in Sri Lanka: A potential public health problem

Conducted by Ms. Tilini De Silva (Honours student in Zoology)



Canine soil-transmitted nematodes with special reference to *Ancylostoma* spp.

Honours Student: T.H.P. Sakunika Amarasingha

Key Publications



PloS one - (2017)

Infections by human gastrointestinal helminths are associated with changes in faecal microbiota diversity and composition.



Journal of Clinical Microbiology - (2015)

Semi- quantitative multiplexed-tandem PCR for the detection and differentiation of four *Theileria orientalis* genotypes in cattle.

Conferences



World Association for the Advancement of Veterinary Parasitology

HELD AT : Liverpool, UK - (20.08.2015)

TOPIC : *Semi-quantitative multiplexed tandem PCR for the detection and differentiation of Theileria orientalis genotypes in Australia and New Zealand*



Conference of the Australian Society for Parasitology and New Zealand Society for Parasitology

HELD AT : Auckland, New Zealand - (01.07.2015)

TOPIC : *Application of novel PCR assays for the detection and differentiation of Theileria orientalis genotypes in New Zealand.*



Conference of the Australian Society for Parasitology and New Zealand Society for Parasitology

HELD AT : Auckland, New Zealand - (01.07.2015)

TOPIC : *Establishment and application of a semi- quantitative multiplexed tandem PCR for the detection and differentiation of Theileria orientalis genotypes in Australia*

My Publications

Please goto the website.

<https://sci.pdn.ac.lk/zoology/staff/Piyumali-Perera>