

Curriculum Vitae

Suresh P. Benjamin

Address

- Associate Research Professor. Institute of Fundamental Studies, Hantana Road, Kandy, Sri Lanka.
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Education and Employment

- 1991–1999 University of Innsbruck, Innsbruck, Austria
- M. Sc. (Mag. rer. nat.), 1992-1999.
 - Thesis: Taxonomical studies on some spiders (Araneae) from Sri Lanka, Families: Scytodidae, Tetragnathidae, Lycosidae, Thomisidae. Thesis adviser: Prof. Konrad Thaler.
- 1999–2003 University of Basel, Basel, Switzerland
- Ph.D., Magna cum Laude.
 - Thesis: Web construction and structure of theridiid and linyphiid spiders. Thesis adviser: Dr. Samuel Zschokke; co adviser: Prof. Bruno Baur.
 - Academic visitor, Lab Prof. Fritz Vollrath, ABRG, Department of Zoology. University of Oxford.
- 2003–2004 University of California, Berkeley, CA, USA
- Postdoctoral fellow. Adaptive radiation in Hawaiian Argyrodes
- 2005–2006 The George Washington University Washington, DC, USA
- NSF postdoctoral fellow.
- 2007–2008 Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC, USA
- SI postdoctoral fellow.
- 2009–present Institute of Fundamental Studies, Hantana Road, Kandy, Sri Lanka
- Senior research fellow
 - Head, Department of Ecology and Environmental Biology
- 2012–present Zoological Research Museum Alexander Koenig, Bonn, Germany
- Alexander von Humboldt Research Fellow

Fellowships and Prizes

- 1991–2011
- 1991–1998 M. Sc. (Mag. rer. nat.) fellowship of the Austrian Academic exchange services.
 - 1999–2002 Doctoral fellowship, Swiss National Science Foundation.
 - 2001 Best scientific illustration and Photograph, 15th international congress of arachnology, Badplaas, South Africa, 2001.
 - 2002 Best student poster, 20th European colloquium of arachnology, Szombathely, Hungary.

- 2002 Study Grant, Friwillige Akademische Gesellschaft, Basel.
- 2003–2004 Postdoctoral fellowship, Department of Insect Biology, UC Berkeley.
- 2005-2006 NSF Postdoctoral fellowship.
- 2007 Collection study grant, California Academy of Sciences.
- 2007-2008 Smithsonian Institution Postdoctoral Fellowship. Advisor: Dr. Jonathan Coddington.
- 2011 Humboldt Research Fellowship for Experienced Researchers.

Publications

2000

- *Epidius parvati* sp. n., a new species of the genus *Epidius* from Sri Lanka (Araneae: Thomisidae). Bulletin of the British Arachnological society, 11(7): 284-288.
- Two new species of the genus *Suffasia* from Sri Lanka (Araneae: Zodariidae). Revue suisse de Zoologie, 107(1): 97-106. (First author with R. Jocqué).

2001

- The genus *Oxytate* L. Koch 1878 from Sri Lanka, with description of *Oxytate taprobane* sp. n. (Araneae: Thomisidae). Journal of South Asian Natural History, 5(2): 153-158.

2002

- Fine structure of sheet-webs of *Linyphia triangularis* (Clerck) and *Microlinyphia pusilla* (Sundevall), with remarks on the presence of viscid silk. Acta Zoologica, 83: 49-59. (First author with M. Düggelein & S. Zschokke).
- *Smodicinodes schwendingeri* sp. n. from Thailand and the first male of *Smodicinodes* Ono, 1993, with notes on the phylogenetic relationships in the tribe Smodicini (Araneae: Thomisidae). Revue suisse de Zoologie, 109: 3-8.
- A computerised method to observe spider web building behaviour in a semi-natural light environment. In *European Arachnology 2000*, (S. Toft & N. Scharff eds.). Aarhus University Press, Aarhus. 117-122. (First author with S. Zschokke).
- Untangling the tangle-web: web building behaviour of the comb-footed spider *Steatoda triangulosa* and comments on phylogenetic implications (Araneae: Theridiidae). Journal of Insect Behavior, 15: 791-809. (First author with S. Zschokke).

2003

- Webs of theridiid spiders: construction, structure and evolution. Biological Journal of the Linnean Society, 78: 293-305. (First author with S. Zschokke).
- *Tidarren sisyphoides* females do not cannibalize their mates. Journal of Arachnology, 31: 445-448. (Second author with Barbara Knoflach).

2004

- Homology, behaviour and spider webs: Web construction behaviour of *Linyphia hortensis* and *L. triangularis* (Araneae Linyphiidae) and its evolutionary significance. Journal of Evolutionary Biology, 17: 120-130. (First author with S. Zschokke).

- *Nesticella marapu* sp. n, a blind Nesticidae (Araneae) from Sumba, Indonesia. *Revue suisse de Zoologie*, 111: 303-307
- A taxonomic revision and a phylogenetic hypothesis for the jumping spider subfamily Ballinae (Araneae, Salticidae). *Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society*, 142: 1-82.

2005

- The pholcid spiders from Sri Lanka: redescription of *Pholcus ceylonicus* and description of a new genus (Araneae: Pholcidae). *Journal of Natural History*, 39: 3305-3319. (Second author with Bernhard Huber).

2006

- Prey-capture strategies in sympatric web building spiders. *Canadian Journal of Zoology*. 84: 964-973. (Third author with Samuel Zschokke, Yann Hénaut and J. Alvaro García-Ballinas).
- The male of *Marengo nitida* with the description of *M. rattotensis* new species from Sri Lanka (Araneae: Salticidae). *Zootaxa*, 1326: 25-36.
- Systematics and conservation of spiders in Sri Lanka: current status and future prospects. In *The Fauna of Sri Lanka*, 70-76. Edited by Channa N. B. Bambaradeniya. IUCN, Colombo, Sri Lanka. (First author with Channa N. B. Bambaradeniya).
- The Male of *Suffasia attidiya* Benjamin & Jocqué, 2000 (Araneae, Zodariidae). *Journal of Arachnology*.

2007

- Linking of digital images to phylogenetic data matrices using a morphological ontology: lessons from the AToL: Phylogeny of Spiders project. *Systematic Biology*, 56: 283-294. (With 11 other authors of the ATOL team)
- Redescription of *Tagulis mystacinus* (Araneae: Thomisidae) from Sri Lanka. *Zootaxa*. (First author with Ziyad Jaleel). *Zootaxa*. 1560: 63-68.
- First records of extant hispaniolan spiders of the families Mysmanidae, Symphytognathidae and Ochyroceratidae (Araneae), including a new species of *Ochyrocera*. (third author with Gustavo Hormiga and Fernando Alvarez-Padilla).

2008

- Family ties: molecular phylogeny of crab spiders (Araneae: Thomisidae). *Cladistics* 24: 1-15. (first author with D. Dimitrov, Gustavo Hormiga and)

2009

- A first look at the phylogeny of the Myrmarachninae, with rediscovery and redescription of the type species of *Myrmarachne* (Araneae: Salticidae). *Zootaxa* 2309: 1-29. (Second author with G. B. Edwards).
- Phylogenetic placement of the enigmatic genus *Labullinyphia* van Helsdingen, 1985, with redescription of *Labullinyphia tersa* (Simon, 1894) from Sri Lanka (Araneae: Linyphiidae). *Contribution to Natural History* 12: 161-181.
- A revised phylogenetic analysis for the genus *Clitaetra* Simon, 1889 (Araneoidea, Nephilidae) with the first description of the male of the Sri Lankan species *Clitaetra thisbe* Simon, 1903. *Bulletin of the Museum of Comparative Zoology* 159: 301-323. (Second author with Gustavo Hormiga and D. Dimitrov).

2010

- The genera *Haplotmarus* Simon, 1909 and *Indoxysticus* gen. nov.: two enigmatic genera of crab spiders from the Oriental region (Araneae: Thomisidae). *Revue suisse de Zoologie*. (First author with Ziyad Jaleel).

- Revision and cladistic analysis of the jumping spider genus *Onomastus* (Araneae, Salticidae). *Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society*. *Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society*, 159: 711-745.

2011

- Advancing the science of taxonomy in the Western Ghats-Sri Lanka Biodiversity Hotspot: need for collaborative studies. *Current science* 100: 280.
- Phylogenetic placement and redescription of the spider genus *Atelidea* Simon, 1895 (Araneae, Tetragnathidae). *Zootaxa* 2761: 51-63 (Second author with Fernando Alvarez-Padilla).
- Phylogenetics and comparative morphology of crab spiders (Araneae: Dionycha, Thomisidae). *Zootaxa* 3080: 1-108.

2012

- The Taxonomy and Conservation Status of the Spiders (Arachnida: Araneae) in Sri Lanka. In: *The National Red List of Sri Lanka; Conservation Status of the Fauna and Flora*. Weerakoon, D.K. & S. Wijesundara Eds., Ministry of Environment, Colombo, Sri Lanka. 42-57 pp. (First author with, Ranil P. Nanayakkara, Salindra K. Dayananda).

2013

- On the crab spider genus *Angaeus* Thorell, 1881 (Araneae: Thomisidae). *Zootaxa*. 3635: 071-080.
- Phylogenetic affinities of *Phobetinus* to other pirate spider genera (Araneae: Mimetidae) as indicated by spinning field morphology. *Arthropod Structure & Development* 42: 407-423. (Third author with Townley MA. and Harms D.)
- The first description of adult female of *Borboropactus asper* (O. P.-Cambridge, 1884) from Sri Lanka (Araneae: Thomisidae). *Zootaxa* 3737: 197-200. (Third author with Yuri Marusik and M. Omelko)

2014

- An annotated checklist and generic keys to the Pseudoscorpion fauna of Sri Lanka (Arachnida: Pseudoscorpionidea). *Zootaxa* 3814: 37-67. (Second author with S. Batuwita).
- On the New World spiders previously assigned to *Leptopholcus*: molecular and morphological analyses and descriptions of four new species (Araneae, Pholcidae). *Invertebrate Systematics* 28: 432-450. (Third author with B. A. Huber and L. S. Carvalho).

In review

- Model mimics: antlike jumping spiders of the genus *Myrmarachne* from Sri Lanka. *Journal of Natural History*.

Contributions to scientific meetings

1998–2014

- On a species of the rare genus *Epidius* from Sri Lanka with notes on the Thomisidae palp (Araneae: Thomisidae). XIV International congress of Arachnology, 22nd annual meeting of the American arachnological society, Chicago, 1998.
- A computerised method to observe spider web building behaviour in a semi-natural light environment. 19th European colloquium of arachnology, Aarhus, Denmark, 2000.
- Untangling the tangle-web: the three phased web building behaviour of *Steatoda triangulosa* (Theridiidae). *Zoologia and Botanica*, Neuchâtel, Switzerland, 2001.
- Web building behaviour of *Steatoda triangulosa* (Theridiidae). 15th international congress of arachnology, Badplaas, South Africa, 2001.

- Webs of theridiids: construction, structure and evolution. Biology02, Bern, Switzerland, 2002.
- A revision of jumping spider species formerly placed in the genus *Marengo* and comments on the phylogeny of Ballinae (Araneae, Salticidae). 20th European colloquium of arachnology, Szombathely, Hungary, 2002.
- Evolutionary origin of novel behavioural pattern: a case study using web construction patterns in orbicularians. 20th European colloquium of arachnology, Szombathely, Hungary, 2002.
- Systematics and conservation of spiders in Sri Lanka: current status and future prospects, national workshop on the status of invertebrate fauna in Sri Lanka, Colombo, Sri Lanka, 5th of August 2004.
- A morphological perspective of assembling the spider tree of life, 30th Annual meeting of the American Arachnological society, Baltimore, Maryland. June 17-21, 2006.
- Phylogeny of Thomisidae: insights from molecular and morphological studies. 3rd Annual meeting of the American Arachnological society, Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania. July 13-17, 2007.
- Revision of the Australasian crab spiders currently placed in the genera *Stephanopsis* O.P. Cambridge, 1869 and *Sidymella* Strand, 1949 (Araneae, Thomisidae). XXVIII European Congress of arachnology, Torino, 2014.

Field experience

1991–2014

- Austria, Dominican Republic, Germany, Hawaii, Mexico, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Switzerland.

Reviewer/Editor

- Animal Behaviour
- Invertebrate Systematics
- Journal of Arachnology
- Journal of Evolutionary Biology
- Journal of Insect Behaviour
- Proceedings of the California Academy Sciences
- Systematics and Biodiversity
- Zoologica Scripta
- Zootaxa
- Editorial board member, ISRN Zoology
- Editorial board member, Advances in Zoology