

Curriculum Vitae

Suresh P. Benjamin

Address

- Associate Research Professor. National Institute of Fundamental Studies, Hantana Road, Kandy, Sri Lanka.
- Email: Suresh.benjamin@gmail.com
- 009481-2232002

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
- 2012–2014 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.
- 2015 Presidents Awards for Scientific Publications.
- 2016 NRC Merit Award for Scientific publications – 2010.
- 2017 NRC Merit Award for Scientific publications – 2014, 2015.
- Alexander von Humboldt Foundation sponsorship, renewed research stay May-July 2017; ca. EUR 10000.00.
- NSF-OSTP Travel grant # OSTP/2017/14; RS. 108,720.00
- NRC (Sri Lanka) Investigator driven grants # 17-017; RS. 4,969,600.00

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 (Araneioidea, 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*, 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. Huber and L. S. Carvalho).
- Two new species of *Pharta* Thorell, 1891 with the description of *Ibana senagang* gen. nov., sp. nov. (Araneae: Thomisidae). *Zootaxa* 3894: 177-182.

2015

- Model mimics: antlike jumping spiders of the genus *Myrmarachne* from Sri

Lanka. *Journal of Natural History* 49: 2609-2666.

- On the African crab spider genus *Geraesta* Simon, 1889, with the description of *G. ansieae* sp. n. *African Invertebrates* 56: 309-318.

2016

- Revision of *Cebrenninus* Simon, 1887 with Description of one New Genus and six New Species (Araneae: Thomisidae). *Revue suisse de Zoologie* 123: 179-200.
- Phylogenetic placement and revision of the tropical Asian crab spider genus *Pagida* (Araneae: Thomisidae). *Invertebrate Systematics* 30: 353-369.
- Three new generic recodes and description of four new species of jumping spiders (Araneae, Salticidae) from Sri Lanka. *European Journal of Taxonomy* 228: 1-23. (Second author with N. Kanesharatnam).
- A review of Sri Lankan *Brignolia* including the description of four new species (Araneae: Oonopidae). *Zootaxa* 4144: 451-476. (Second author with UGSL. Ranasinghe).
- The Goblin spider genus *Xestaspis* in Sri Lanka (Araneae: Oonopidae). *Zootaxa* 4189: 060-080. (Second author with UGSL. Ranasinghe).
- First record of *Platythomisus sudeepi* from Sri Lanka (Araneae: Thomisidae). *Arachnology* 17: 165-168. (First author with I. Ileperuma Arachchi, BP. Herath).
- New Record of *Isometrus basilicus* (Scorpiones: Buthidae) from Sri Lanka. *Indian Journal of Arachnology* 5: 67-70.
- Benjamin SP. (2016c). New Record of *Pelcinus* and *Xyphinus* (ARANEAE: OONOPIIDAE) from Sri Lanka. *India Journal of Arachnology* 5: 71-78. (Second author with UGSL. Ranasinghe).
- The spider tree of life: phylogeny of Araneae based on target-gene analyses from an extensive taxon sampling. *Cladistics* 33: 574-616. (with 35 other authors)

2017

- Distributional and taxonomic notes on the crab spider genus *Epidius* with descriptions of five new species (Araneae: Thomisidae). *Journal of Natural History* 51: 469-485.
- On the Type of *Myrmarachne uniseriata* Narayan, 1915 (Araneae: Salticidae), with Notes on Its Synonymy. *Arachnology* 17:294-296. (Second author with J. Caleb).
- A new species of *Angaeus* from Malaysia with possible affinity to related genera within Stephanopinae (Araneae: Thomisidae). *Zootaxa* 4337(2):297-300

2018

- Ranasinghe, U.G.S.L. and Benjamin, S.P. Three new species of *Aprusia* (Araneae: Oonopidae) from Sri Lanka with a phylogenetic analysis of the genus. *Journal of Natural History* 52: 713-738.
- Repeated diversification of ecomorphs in Hawaiian stick spiders. *Current biology* 28: 941-947.
- Kanesharatnam, N. & Benjamin S.P. A new genus and three new species of jumping spiders (Araneae: Salticidae) from Sri Lanka. *European Journal of Taxonomy* 444: 1-24.

In Press

- Taxonomic descriptions of nine new species of the goblin spider genera *Cavisternum*, *Grymeus*, *Ischnothyreus*, *Opopaea*, *Pelcinus* and *Silhouettella* (Araneae, Oonopidae) from Sri Lanka. *Evolutionary systematic*.

scientific meetings

- 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.
- Clustering pattern of four endemic species of genus *Bulbophyllum* (Orchidaceae) in Sri Lanka with respect their phonetics. Abstracts, Proceedings of the PGIS Research Congress 2014. Postgraduate Institute of Science. University of Peradeniya. Sri Lanka. p.24. (Sandamali, P. M. H., Senanayake, S. P., Benjamin, S. P., Rajapakse and Athukorala, N. P., 2014).
- Generic diversity and distribution of goblin spiders (family: Oonopidae) in selected sites in Sri Lanka. Peradeniya University International Research Sessions (iPURSE 2013), p. 451. (Ranasinghe., U.G.S.L., Athukorala., N.P., Samaraweera., P., Benjamin., S.P., presented in 2014).
- Revisiting the diversity of Sri Lankan Oonopid spiders (Araneae): The Genus *Ischnothyreus*. Wayamba International Conference - WinC 2014 - Wayamba University of Sri Lanka, Kuliyaipitiya, Sri Lanka. (Ranasinghe., U.G.S.L. and Benjamin., S.P.)
- Conservation, biodiversity and systematics of the crab spider genus *Pagida* and a redescription of the type species *Pagida salticiformis*. Wayamba International Conference 2014 - WinC 2014 - Wayamba University of Sri Lanka, Kuliyaipitiya, Sri Lanka. (C. I. Clayton & S. P. Benjamin).
- 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.
- Diversity of the goblin spider genus *Brignolia* (Family: Oonopidae). Abstracts, Proceedings of the PGIS Research Congress 2015. Postgraduate Institute of Science. University of Peradeniya. Sri Lanka. p. 84. (Ranasinghe, U.G.S.L., Athukorala., N.P., Samaraweera., P., Benjamin., S.P.).
- Molecular phylogeny and diversity of Goblin spiders in Sri Lanka (Araneae: Oonopidae), Proceedings of SLAYS Open Forum 2017, pg 67-68, 28th February and 1st March 2017, Hilton Colombo Residences,

- Colombo. (Ranasinghe, U.G.S.L. and Benjamin, S.P.).
- Phylogeny of *Aprusia*, a spider genus endemic to the Western Ghats & Sri Lanka biodiversity hotspot (Aranea: Oonopidae), Symposium of Understanding and Conserving Biodiversity: The use of Ecological, Phylogenetic and Evolutionary Relationship, pg 17, 26 May 2017, SLIDA, Colombo. (Ranasinghe, U.G.S.L., Athukorala, N., Benjamin, S.P.).
 - Unravelling the phylogeny of two closely related crab spider genera in Sri Lanka (Araneae: Thomisidae). ECA 2017. (Ileperuma Arachchi, I.S., Athukorala., P., Benjamin., S.P.).
 - Molecular and morphological data reveal a cryptic radiation of shiny South Asian jumping spider (Araneae: Salticidae). ECA 2017. (Kanesharatnam, N., Athukorala., P., Benjamin., S.P.).
 - Molecular phylogeny of the spider family Oonopidae (Araneae, goblin spiders). ECA 2017. (Ranasinghe, U.G.S.L., Athukorala., P., Benjamin., S.P.).
 - A preliminary study on the phylogeny of two closely related crab spider genera in Sri Lanka (Araneae: Thomisidae). Abstracts, Proceedings of the PGIS Research Congress 2017. Postgraduate Institute of Science. University of Peradeniya. Sri Lanka. p. 69. (Ileperuma Arachchi, I.S., Athukorala., P., Benjamin., S.P.).
 - A preliminary study on molecular diversity of chrisillines in Sri Lanka (Araneae: Salticidae). Abstracts, Proceedings of the PGIS Research Congress 2017. Postgraduate Institute of Science. University of Peradeniya. Sri Lanka. p. 70. (Kanesharatnam, N., Athukorala., P., Benjamin., S.P.).

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