

Education

Ph.D. (Fall 2012)

Dept. of Plant Pathology, Washington State University, Pullman, WA.

Major Advisor: Dr. Weidong Chen

Thesis - "Population genetics and evolutionary potential of economically important traits of plant pathogenic fungus *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum*"

Master of Science. (Fall 2008)

Dept. of Plant Pathology, Washington State University, Pullman, WA.

Major advisor: Dr. Weidong Chen

Thesis- "Species and population diversity of powdery mildews on cool season grain legumes in the US pacific northwest"

Bachelor of Science, (2002) University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka.

Employment History and Responsibilities:

Time frame	Employment	Responsibilities
Oct 2013-to date	Senior Lecturer, Department of Botany, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka	Teaching and Research Curriculum Development, Coordinating post graduate degree program of the Department
Aug. 2008- Aug. 2013	Graduate Research Assistant (PhD) Department of Plant Pathology, Washington State University, Pullman, WA, USA. PI: Dr. Weidong Chen, USDA-ARS	Plan and execute experimental design, data analysis, and interpretation of research projects on population genetics of <i>Sclerotinia sclerotiorum</i> , Optimize novel genotyping techniques for pathogens
Aug. 2006-Aug. 2008	Graduate Research Assistant (MSc), Department of Plant Pathology, Washington State University, Pullman, WA, USA. PI: Dr Weidong Chen, USDA-ARS	Plan and execute experimental design, data analysis, and interpretation of research projects of genetic diversity of powdery mildews
2003-2006	Probationary Lecturer, Department of Botany, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka	Teaching and conduct Laboratory Sessions

Publications

Peer reviewed journal articles

1. Attanayake, R.N., Xu, L. & Chen W. 2019. *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum* populations: clonal or recombining? **Trop. plant pathol.** (2019) 44: 23. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40858-018-0248-7>
2. Mahalingam, T., Guruge, B.M.A., Somachandra, K.P., Jayasekara, E.A.E.S.S., Rajapakse, C.S.K. and **Attanayake, R.N.** 2018. Phenotypic variation of cabbage white mold pathogen, *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum* in the upcountry commercial cabbage fields in Sri Lanka. **Journal of the National Science Foundation of Sri Lanka**, 46(2), pp.159–164. DOI: <http://doi.org/10.4038/jnsfsr.v46i2.8416>

3. Maduranga K, **Attanayake RN**, Santhirasegaram S, Weerakoon G, Paranagama PA. 2018 Molecular phylogeny and bioprospecting of Endolichenic Fungi (ELF) inhabiting in the lichens collected from a mangrove ecosystem in Sri Lanka. PLOS ONE 13(8): e0200711. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0200711>
4. Mahalingam, T. Guruge, B. M. A., Somachandra, K. P., Rajapakse, C. S. and **Attanayake, R. N.** 2017. First Report of White Mold Caused by *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum* on Cabbage in Sri Lanka. **Plant Disease**. 101(1):249
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1094/PDIS-05-16-0693-PDN>
5. **Attanayake R.N.**, Tennekoon,V., Johnson, D.A., Porter, L.D., del Río-Mendoza, L., Jiang, D., Chen, W. 2014. Inferring outcrossing in the homothallic fungus *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum* using linkage disequilibrium decay. **Nature Heredity** 1–11 <http://www.nature.com/hdy/journal/v113/n4/full/hdy201437a.html>
6. **Attanayake, R. N.**, Porter, L., Johnson D.A., Chen, W. 2012. Genetic and phenotypic diversity and random association of DNA markers of the fungal plant pathogen *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum* from soil in a fine geographic scale. **Soil Biology and Biochemistry**. 55: 28-36
7. **Attanayake, R. N.**, Carter, P. A. Jiang, d. h., Río-Mendoza, L. D. and Weidong Chen. 2013. Genetic and phenotypic divergence of the *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum* populations from China and USA. **Phytopathology**. 103: 750-761
8. **Attanayake, R. N.**, Glawe, D. A., McPhee, K. E. Dugan, F. M., Chen, W. 2010. *Erysiphe trifolii*– a newly recognized powdery mildew pathogen of pea. **Plant Pathology**. 59: 712–720
9. **Attanayake, R.N.**, Dugan, F.M., Glawe, D. A., McPhee, K. E. 2010. Potential alternative hosts for pea powdery mildew pathogen *Erysiphe trifolii*. **Pisum genetics** 42
10. **Attanayake, R.**, Glawe, D., Dugan, F.M., Chen, W. 2009. *Erysiphe trifolii* causing powdery mildew of lentil (*Lens culinaris*). Plant Disease.93:797-803. **APSnet Feature, August, 2009 (Editor's pic)**
11. **Attanayake, K. P. R. N.**, Glawe, D. A., McPhee, K. E., Dugan, F. M., and Chen, W. 2008. First report of powdery mildew of chickpea (*Cicer arietinum*) caused by *Leveillula taurica* in Washington State. Online. **Plant Health Progress** doi:10.1094/PHP-2008-0702-01-BR.
12. Dugan, F. M., Glawe, D.A., **Attanayake, R. N.**, Chen, W. 2009. The importance of reporting new host-fungus records for ornamental and regional crops. **APSnet Feature, February 2009**.
<http://www.apsnet.org/online/feature/biogeography/>. (Editor's pic)
13. Ali, H. S. Alam, S., **Attanayake, R.N.**, Rahman, M., Chen, W. 2012. Population structure and mating type distribution of the chickpea blight pathogen *Ascochyta rabiei* form Pakistan and the United States. **Journal of plant pathology** 1 (2).

Book chapters

1. **Attanayake, R. N.**, Chen, W., and Wunsch, W. 2016. Powdery mildew (PP1790-8), in: Markell, S., Pasche, J., and Porter, L. North Dakota Cooperative Extension Service Publication PP1790.
2. **Attanayake, R.**, Chen, W., Glawe, D., Dugan, F. Powdery mildew of lentil. 2011 In: Chen, W., Sharma, H. C., Muehlbauer, F. editors. Compendium of chickpea and lentil disease and pests. APS press, St. Paul, MN. p. 49-51.
3. Dugan, F. M., **Attanayake R.**, Glawe, D., Chen, W. In: Chen, W., Sharma, H. C., Muehlbauer, F. editors. Powdery mildew of chickpea. 2011 In: Compendium of chickpea and lentil disease and pests. APS press, St. Paul, MN. p. 51-52.
4. Njambere, E., **Attanayake, R.**, Chen, W. 2010. Applications of molecular markers and DNA sequences in identifying fungal pathogens of cool season grain legumes. In: Gherbawy, Y. and Voigt, K., editors. Current Advances in Molecular Fungal Identification. Berlin: Springer. p 79-92.

Awards

- Travel award to attend ICPP, Boston 2018.
- JANE award from American Phytopathological society for returning scientists working on *Phytophthora infestans* 2014
- Travel award to attend Smithsonian workshop on multiple sequence alignment and phylogeny estimation, May 20-22, WA DC, 2012.
- Student travel award to attend 52nd soil-borne plant pathogen conference, San Marino, CA 2012

- APS-Pacific division student travel award, 2011
- 2nd Place- Student oral presentation competition. North American Pulse Improvement Association, 2009
- GPSA Graduate Student Travel Grant, Washington State University 2008
- 2nd Place- Student oral presentation competition. North American Pulse Improvement Association, 2007
- APS Student Travel Award, 2008

Research grants:

Funding agency	Grant number	Title of the project	Amount in SL Rs
NSF	RG/2015/BT/04 (PI)	Genetic diversity and management of cabbage white mold pathogen <i>Sclerotinia sclerotiorum</i> and feasibility of anaerobic soil disinfestation and bio fumigation based disease management system for upcountry vegetable production	Rs. 2.44 Million (completed)
NSF	RG/2015/EQ/13 (PI)	Support for research equipment	Rs. 1.9 Million (completed)
University of Kelaniya	RP/03/02/01/02/2015 (PI)	DNA barcoding of soil and wood decaying fungal species present in a selected dry zone forest and report economically important fungal species present	Rs. 300,000 (completed)
BDS	n/a (PI)		Rs. 200,000.00 (completed)
Ministry of Science technology and Research	(PI)	"High throughput genotyping to expedite the genetic characterization and dissection of important agronomic traits of tea	Rs 5.85 million (ongoing)
Ministry of Science technology and Research	(CO-PI- Myself PI- Prof Priyani Paranagama	"Bioprospecting Endolichenic Fungi from Mangroves in Negombo lagoon in Sri Lanka and Gulf of Khambat, Gulf of Kutch from Gujarat India.; An Untapped Treasure Trove for Discovery of Special Structures and Bioactive Compounds".	112.05 million (ongoing)
TWAS	PI	Diversity of weed decaying fungi in dry zone forests in Sri Lanka	USD 9,000 (on going)
ICGEB	PI	Genetic dissection of polyethylene degradation of fungi	Euros 25,000 (ongoing)
Transform 2018	PI	Full genome sequencing of particularly aggressive Onion spoilage pathogen <i>A. niger</i>	4000 GBP (ongoing)

Professional society memberships

- Genetics Society of America (GSA)
- American Phytopathological Society (APS)