

CURRICULUM VITAE

ARUNA D. WEERASOORIYA

Education

Ph.D. (Plant Systematics), Department of Ecology and Biodiversity, The University of Hong Kong (2001), "Systematics, Phylogeny and Reproductive Biology of *Mitrephora* (Annonaceae)" Advisor: Prof. Richard M. K. Saunders
B. Sc. (Biology), University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka (1990)

Other Qualifications & Skills

Leadership Training:

Graduate [LEAD21-Class 15](#)- land grant university leadership training program conducted by the University of Georgia, 2019

Fellow, Texas Council of Chief Academic Officers, Texas Academic Leadership Academy, 2023

Taxonomic Training:

Trained in collection-based plant systematic research, herbarium, and botanic garden management, seed banking technology, and conservation at the Royal Botanic Garden – Kew, England and the Royal Botanic Garden – Edinburgh, Scotland 1992 & 1993 (Supervisors: Drs. Derek Clayton & David Philcox)

Computing:

Modern software used in plant sciences including herbarium database management (BRHAMS); GIS; PAUP; Genome sequencing, image processing, and web development

Microscopy:

Use of Microtome, light microscopes, fluorescence microscopes; SEM and TEM

Molecular techniques:

DNA extraction, purification, amplification, sequencing, and data analyses

Field botanical expeditions:

Sri Lanka, China, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Malaya, Borneo, Java, Sumatra, Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Australia (Queensland) and USA (mainly Midwest and South).

Ongoing taxonomic revisions:

Flora of Thailand (Daphniphyllaceae, Erythroxylaceae, Moringaceae & Pedaliaceae)

Flora Malesiana (Annonaceae- *Mitrephora*)

Living Collection Management & Conservation:

Development of US largest living collection of medicinal plants, reference herbarium and seed bank at the Maynard W Quimby Research Medicinal Plant Garden at The University of Mississippi.

Germplasm acquisition and development of living *Cannabis sativa* wild and domesticated landraces at the Prairie View A&M University

Research Interests

Systematics, phylogeny and reproductive biology of flowering plants; Annonaceae; *Mitrephora*; Ethnobotany; Medicinal Plants, *Cannabis sativa* (Industrial Hemp), Phytochemistry; Ecology; Biodiversity Conservation; Floras of Sri Lanka, Thailand, China and Malesiana.

Research & Teaching Positions

Professor, College of Agriculture & Human Sciences, Prairie View A&M University USA:

August, 2022 – to date
 Professor & Program Chair, Plant & Environmental Sciences, College of Agriculture & Human Sciences, Prairie View A&M University USA: September, 2020 – August, 2022.
 Associate Professor & Interim Research Leader (Plant Systems), Cooperative Agricultural Research Center, College of Agriculture & Human Sciences, Prairie View A&M University USA: January, 2019 – August, 2020
 Research Scientist (Plant Systematics & Medicinal Plants), Cooperative Agricultural Research Center, College of Agriculture & Human Sciences, Prairie View A&M University USA: January, 2013 – December, 2018
 Senior Research Scientist (Plant Systematics & Medicinal Plants) & Director, Medicinal Plant Garden, National Center for Natural Products Research, The University of Mississippi USA: July, 2011 – December, 2012
 Research Scientist (Plant Systematics & Medicinal Plants) & Director, Medicinal Plant Garden, National Center for Natural Products Research, The University of Mississippi USA: July, 2005 – June, 2011
 Postdoctoral Research Associate (Plant Systematics), National Center for Natural Products Research, The University of Mississippi USA: July 2002 – June 2005
 Postdoctoral Research Associate (Plant Molecular Systematics), Department of Biology, University of Missouri–St. Louis USA: November 2001 – June 2002
 Senior Research Assistant, Department of Ecology and Biodiversity, The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong: April 1998 – August 2001
 Research Botanist, Forest die-back study project, Department of Botany, University of Peradeniya Sri Lanka: May 1997– March 1998
 Visiting Lecturer in Environmental Conservation and Botany, Diploma course in Wildlife Management, Wildlife Training and Education Center, Giritale, Sri Lanka: 1996 – 1998
 Visiting Lecturer in Environmental Conservation and Botany, Certificate course in Wildlife Management, Center for Environmental Studies, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka: 1996 – 1998
 Visiting Lecturer in Urban Forestry and Arboriculture, Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka: 1996 – 1998
 Visiting Lecturer in Environmental Management and Conservation, University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka: 1996 – 1998
 Consultant/Flora, Biodiversity survey of Wasgomuwa, Udawalawe, Bundala, Giritale-Minneriya and Kahalla-Pallekele protected areas in Sri Lanka under the Global Environmental Facility (USAID/GEF) project. 1996 – 1998
 Plant Taxonomist, Revision of the Flora of Ceylon Project, National Herbarium, Royal Botanic Gardens, Peradeniya, Sri Lanka: 1992 – May 1997
 Assistant Lecturer, Department of Botany, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka: 1990 – 1992

Committees & Professional Memberships

Member, Institute Biosafety Committee (IBC), Prairie View A&M University
 Fellow, The Linnean Society of London
 Board Member, Indian Subcontinent Plant Specialists, The World Conservation Union, Species Survival Commission (IUCN-SSC)
 Member, Institute of Biology, UK
 Member, International Association for Plant Taxonomy
 Member, International Society for Horticultural Science
 Botanical Advisor, American Herbal Pharmacopeia

Associate Faculty, Missouri Botanical Gardens, St. Louis
Advisor, Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of Sri Lanka
Advisor, Ministry of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine, Government of Sri Lanka

Research Grants

Funded:

- Ram Ray, **A. Weerasooriya**, Ali Fares, Laura Carson, Richard Griffin, Javad Barouei, Lijun Qian and Yunxiang Gao. 2022-2025, \$ 2,576,237.00, Shell Oil Company. An experimental approach to developing advanced tools to conduct agroecological measurements
- Chunquan Zhang (Alcorn State University), **A. Weerasooriya**, and Suping Zhou (Tennessee State University) 2019-2021, \$ 499,457 USDA/NIFA/CBG Establishing A Genome Editing Consortium at 1890 Universities.
- A. Weerasooriya**, M. Gao, P. Ampim, S.Woldesenbet, L. Carson, A. Srivastava and I. Abibo 2015-2020, \$ 295,132.00 USDA/NIFA/CBG Establishing a Comprehensive reference system for plant materials used in dietary supplements for male health, weight loss and cardiovascular health.
- P. Ampim **A. Weerasooriya**, M. Gao, B. Lawton, O. Ojumu and D. Rivera 2016-2019, \$596,909 USDA/NIFA/CBG Building capacity to support small acreage farmers in Texas to produce high value specialty crops.
- M. Gao, K. Mockaitis, S.Woldesenbet, **A. Weerasooriya**, Y. Lu, 2014-2019, \$499,333, USDA/NIFA/CBG. Development of Genomic Resources and Tools for Advancing the Sweetpotato (*Ipomoea batatas* (L.) Lam) Genomics
- G. Osuji, L. Carson, M. Gao, **A. Weerasooriya**, P. Ampim, A. Parks, Y. Jung, P. Johnson, D. Nelson, B. Lawton, O. Ojumu, 2017-2018, \$600,000 USDA/NIFA. Medicinal plants establishment and genomics, metabolomics, and biochemical characterization of their anti-obesity and anti-diabetic dietary constituents.
- Ikhlas Khan, Mahmoud A. ElSohly, Troy Smillie, and **Aruna Weerasooriya**, 2009-2010, \$730,001 sub-award from NIH awards 1RC2GM092521-01 & 5RC2GM092521-02 (\$6,000,000) to Joe Chappell, University of Kentucky, Advancing Drug Development in Medicinal Plants Using Transcriptomics and Metabolomics.
- Ikhlas Khan, Troy Smillie, and **Aruna Weerasooriya**, 2010, \$197,740 sub-award from NIH awards 1P50AT006268-01 (\$1,534,904) to William Helferich, University of Illinois-Urbana-Champaign, Botanical Estrogens: Mechanisms, Dose and Target Tissues.

Pending:

- Aruna Weerasooriya**, Ram Ray, Clarence Bunch, Venkatesh Balan, Abdul Khan and Weihang Zhu, 2022, \$ 999,863.00. USDA/NIFA Identification and optimization of industrial hemp fiber strains for cultivation and development of value-added products
- Aruna Weerasooriya**, Prabha Amarasinghe & Peter Ampim. 2022. \$75,000. USDA/NIFA Acquisition of a Phenotyping Platform to Strengthen Industrial Hemp and Medicinal Specialty Crop Research.
- Aruna Weerasooriya**, Addisie Geremew Laura Carson & Peter Ampim. 2022. \$200,000 TXDoA. Harnessing the Use of Underutilized Edible Medicinal Plant Species for Forage, Food, and Dietary Product Development.
- P. Ampim, G. Osuji, **A. Weerasooriya**, S. Bandara, R. Ray, S. Woldesenbet, D. Nelson. 2022, \$598,544 USDA/NIFA/CBG. Agronomic manipulation of *Moringa* spp. to enhance sustainable production and soil carbon sequestration, and enrich dietary constituents.

L. Carson, G. Osuji, S. Bandara, M. Gao, **A. Weerasooriya**, P. Ampim, P. Johnson, S. Woldeesenbet, B. Lawton, Y. Jung. 2022, \$500,000 USDA/NIFA/CBG. Improvement of the production of natural zero-calorie sweetener, hemandulcin in *Phyla dulcis* using genetic and Biochemical approaches.

Awards & Honors

Excellence in innovation, commercialization, and entrepreneurship award, Prairie View A&M University 2020.

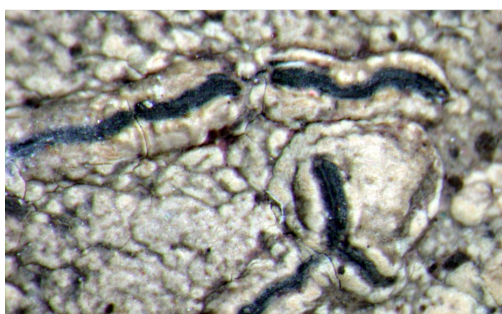
President's award for botanical research, Government of Sri Lanka 2002

Wang Gungwu award for the outstanding graduate student, The University of Hong Kong 2001

Wang Gungwu award for the outstanding graduate student, The University of Hong Kong 2000

Wang Gungwu award for the outstanding graduate student, The University of Hong Kong 1999

A postage stamp was issued by the Government of Thailand in honor of my plant discovery in their country in 2006.



A new lichen species, *Allographa weerasooriyana*, was named by the British Museum in honor of my contribution to global plant science research in 2019.

Patents Pending

Godson Osuji, **Aruna Weerasooriya**, Paul Johnson, Laura Carson, Ming Gao, Peter Ampim & Selamawit Woldeesenbet. Methods for Producing Camphor-Free and High Hernandulcin *Phyla dulcis* Plants (94712PVAMU17)

List of Selected Publications

Books/Monographs

Weerasooriya, A. and R.M.K. Saunders. (2010). Monograph of *Mitrephora* (Annoanceae). Systematic Botany Monographs, The American Society of Plant Taxonomists. (167 pp, 60 figures and 4 color plates: ISBN 978-0-912861-90-6).

Book Chapters

Weerasooriya, A. D., and R.M.K. Saunders. (2023). *Mitrephora*. In: Kongkanda Chayamarit, Henrik Balslev, David M Johnson and Nancy A Murray (eds.), Annonaceae. Flora of Thailand Vol. 6:1. Forest Herbarium, Royal Forest Department, Thailand.

Weerasooriya, A.D., Saunders, RMK, Turner, *Mitrephora* (Blume) Hook. f. & Thomson. (2014). In E. Soepadmo & K.M. Wong (Eds.), Tree Flora of Sabah and Sarawak, v. 8, p. 92-104. Kuala Lumpur: Forest Research Institute Malaysia/Sabah Forestry Department.

Li, B., **Weerasooriya, A. D.**, and R.M.K. Saunders. (2011). *Mitrephora*. In (Eds.), Flora of

- China, 2011, v. 19, p. 687-688. Science Press & Missouri Botanical Garden.
- Weerasooriya, A.** 2000. Taccaceae. Pp. 277-278 in Revised Handbook to the Flora of Ceylon Vol. 14, eds. M.D. Dassanayake and W.D. Clayton
- Weerasooriya, A.** 2000. Typhaceae. Pp. 290-292 in Revised Handbook to the Flora of Ceylon Vol. 14, eds. M.D. Dassanayake and W.D. Clayton.
- Weerasooriya, A.** 2000. Triuridaceae. Pp. 286-289 in Revised Handbook to the Flora of Ceylon Vol. 14, eds. M.D. Dassanayake and W.D. Clayton
- Dassanayake, M.D and **A. Weerasooriya.** 2000. Alismataceae. Pp. 5-8 in Revised Handbook to the Flora of Ceylon Vol. 14, eds. M.D. Dassanayake and W.D. Clayton
- Dassanayake, M.D and **A. Weerasooriya.** 2000. Marantaceae. Pp. 239-245 in Revised Handbook to the Flora of Ceylon Vol. 14, eds. M.D. Dassanayake and W.D. Clayton
- Weerasooriya, A.** 2000. Najadaceae. Pp. 252-255 in Revised Handbook to the Flora of Ceylon Vol. 14, eds. M.D. Dassanayake and W.D. Clayton. A.A. Balkema Publishers: Rotterdam, Netherlands
- Weerasooriya, A.** 1999. Alangiaceae. Pp. 34-38 in Revised Handbook to the Flora of Ceylon Vol. 13, eds. M.D. Dassanayake and W.D. Clayton
- Weerasooriya, A.** 1999. Buxaceae. Pp. 34-38 in Revised Handbook to the Flora of Ceylon Vol. 13, eds. M.D. Dassanayake and W.D. Clayton
- Weerasooriya, A.** 1999. Cactaceae. Pp. 41-45 in Revised Handbook to the Flora of Ceylon Vol. 13, eds. M.D. Dassanayake and W.D. Clayton
- Weerasooriya, A.** 1999. Cornaceae. Pp. 54-60 in Revised Handbook to the Flora of Ceylon Vol. 13, eds. M.D. Dassanayake and W.D. Clayton
- Weerasooriya, A.** 1999. Daphniphyllaceae. Pp. 65-67 in Revised Handbook to the Flora of Ceylon Vol. 13, eds. M.D. Dassanayake and W.D. Clayton
- Weerasooriya, A.** 1999. Dichapetalaceae. Pp. 68-71 in Revised Handbook to the Flora of Ceylon Vol. 13, eds. M.D. Dassanayake and W.D. Clayton
- Weerasooriya, A.** 1999. Linaceae. Pp. 208-209 in Revised Handbook to the Flora of Ceylon Vol. 13, eds. M.D. Dassanayake and W.D. Clayton
- Weerasooriya, A.** 1999. Opiliaceae. Pp. 173-176 in Revised Handbook to the Flora of Ceylon Vol. 13, eds. M.D. Dassanayake and W.D. Clayton
- Weerasooriya, A.** 1999. Trapaceae. Pp. 208-209 in Revised Handbook to the Flora of Ceylon Vol. 13, eds. M.D. Dassanayake and W.D. Clayton
- Weerasooriya, A.** 1999. Moringaceae. Pp. 124-125 in Revised Handbook to the Flora of Ceylon Vol. 13, eds. M.D. Dassanayake and W.D. Clayton
- Dassanayake, M.D and **A. Weerasooriya.** 1999. Hypericaceae. Pp. 114-117 in Revised Handbook to the Flora of Ceylon Vol. 13, eds. M.D. Dassanayake and W.D. Clayton
- Wadhwa, B.M. and **A. Weerasooriya.** 1997. Simaroubaceae. Pp. 4-9-415 in Revised Handbook to the Flora of Ceylon Vol. 11, eds. M.D. Dassanayake and W.D. Clayton
- Wadhwa, B.M. and **A. Weerasooriya.** 1996. Passifloraceae. Pp. 304-321 in Revised Handbook to the Flora of Ceylon Vol. 10, eds. M.D. Dassanayake and W.D. Clayton
- Wadhwa, B.M. and **A. Weerasooriya.** 1996. Portulacaceae. Pp. 343-351 in Revised Handbook to the Flora of Ceylon Vol. 10, eds. M.D. Dassanayake and W.D. Clayton
- Wadhwa, B.M. and **A. Weerasooriya.** 1996. Erythroxylaceae. Pp. 139-148 in Revised Handbook to the Flora of Ceylon Vol. 10, eds. M.D. Dassanayake and W.D. Clayton
- Wadhwa, B.M. and **A. Weerasooriya.** 1996. Tiliaceae (*Muntingia*). Pp. 410-412 in Revised Handbook to the Flora of Ceylon Vol. 10, eds. M.D. Dassanayake and W.D. Clayton
- Wadhwa, B.M. and **A. Weerasooriya.** 1996. Violaceae. Pp. 413-426 in Revised Handbook to the Flora of Ceylon Vol. 10, eds. M.D. Dassanayake and W.D. Clayton
- Wadhwa, B.M. and **A. Weerasooriya.** 1996. Stemonaceae. Pp. 383-385 in Revised

Journals

- Addisie Geremew, Laura Carson, Selamawit Woldeesenbet, Huichen Wang, Sheena Reeves, Nigel Brooks Jr., Premkumar Saganti, **Aruna Weerasooriya** and Elisha Peace (2023). Effect of zinc oxide nanoparticles synthesized from *Carya illinoensis* leaf extract on growth and antioxidant properties of mustard (*Brassica juncea*). Front. Plant Sci., 23. Sec. Plant Nutrition (<https://doi.org/10.3389/fpls.2023.1108186>).
- Subhani Bandara, Shelby Devereaux and **Aruna Weerasooriya** (2023). Methods to Evaluate the Antiobesity Effects of Medicinal Plants Using Enzyme Assays. *Obesities* 3, 13-35. (<https://doi.org/10.3390/obesities3010003>)
- J.S. Wickramasinghe, P.V. Udagama, V.H.W. Dissanayaka, **Aruna D Weerasooriya**, H.W.W. Goonasekera (2022). Plant based radioprotectors as an adjunct to radiotherapy: Advantages and limitations. *Journal of Radiological Protection*. Feb 23;42(2). doi: 10.1088/1361-6498/ac5295
- Prabha Amarasinghe, Camille Pierre, Mahta Moussavi, Addisie Geremew, Selamawit Woldeesenbet, and **Aruna Weerasooriya** (2022). Morphological and anatomical variability of stems of an industrial hemp collection and properties of its fibers. *Heliyon*.
- Obeng, E., P.A.Y. Ampim, A.C. Nwachukwu, F. Isabelle, **A. Weerasooriya** and G. Osuji (2021). The effect of fabric covering on the emergence and yield of container grown Egyptian spinach (*Corchorus olitorius* L.). *Sci J Biol & Life Sci*. 1(4): 2021. SJBLS.MS.ID.000519.
- Addisie Yalew Geremew, Laura Carson, Selamawit Woldeesenbet and **Aruna Weerasooriya** (2021) Interactive Effects of Organic Fertilizers and Drought Stress on Growth and Nutrient Content of *Brassica juncea* at Vegetative Stage. *Sustainability* 13(24):13948
- Carson, L., Bandara, S., Joseph, M., Green, T., Grady, T., Osuji, G., **Weerasooriya, A.**, Ampim, P., Woldeesenbet, S. (2019). Green synthesis of silver nanoparticles with antimicrobial properties using *Phyla dulcis* plant extract, *Foodborne Pathogens and Diseases*. *Foodborne Pathogens and Disease*, Vol. 17, No. 8 504-511
- Appolonia A. Obiloma, Wenceslaus C. Madu, Godson O. Osuji, Peter A. Ampim, **Aruna D. Weerasooriya** and Laura E. Carson (2019). Terpene-Rich Medicinal Plant Spices for Flavoring of Processed Tropical Food. *American Journal of Plant Sciences*, 10: 572-577
- Osuji, G. O., M. Gao, L. Carson, **A. Weerasooriya**, P. A. Y. Ampim, P. Johnson, E. Duffus, S. Woldeesenbet, J. Kirven, E. Williams, D. Clarke (2017). Biotechnological induction of shikimate-based antioxidant accumulation in *Phyla dulcis*. *The Natural Products Journal* 7:104-111.
- Godson, O., **Weerasooriya, A.**; Ampim, P. A.Y.; Carson, L., Johnson, P., et al. Molecular Regulation of the Metabolic Pathways of the Medicinal Plants: *Phyla dulcis*. *American Journal of Plant Sciences* 6.11 (Jul 2015): 1717-1726.
- Adams, R. P., **Weerasooriya, A.** and Gao, M. (2014). Comparison of volatile leaf terpenoids from *Lippia dulcis* (Verbenaceae) obtained by steam distillation and pentane liquid extraction. *Phytologia* 96(4): 252-259.
- Yeo, Y., Nybo, S. E., Chittiboyina, A. G., **Weerasooriya, A.**, Wang, Y., Góngora-Castillo, E., Vaillancourt, B., Buell, C. R., DellaPenna, D., Jones, D., Wurtele, E. S., Ransom, N., Dudareva, N., Shabaan, K. A., Tibrewal, N., Chandra, S., Smillie, T., Khan, I. A., Coates, R. M., Watt, D., and Chappell, J. (2013). Functional identification of valerenal, 1,10-diene synthase, a terpene synthase catalyzing a unique chemical cascade in the biosynthesis of biologically active sesquiterpenes in *Valeriana officinalis*. *J. Biol. Chem.* 288: 3163- 3173.
- Galal, A. M., Raman, V., Avula, B., Wang, Y.-H., Rumalla, C. S. , **Weerasooriya, A.** and Khan, I. A. (2012). Comparative study of three species of *Plumbago* L. (Plumbaginaceae)

by microscopy, UPLC-UV and HPTLC analyses. Journal of Natural Medicines.

- ElSohly, M.; Gul, W.; ElSohly, K.; Murphy, T.; **Weerasooriya, A.**; Chittaboyania, A.; Avula, B.; Khan, I.; Eichner, A. and Bowers, L. (2012). *Pelargonium* oil and Methyl hexaneamine (MHA): Analytical Approaches supporting the Absence of MHA in Authenticated *Pelargonium graveolens* Plant material and oil. Journal of Analytical Toxicology. 36 (7): 457-471.
- Weerasooriya, A.** P. Chalermglin and R.M.K. Saunders. 2006. *Mitrephora sirikitiae* (Annonaceae): A remarkable new species to northern Thailand. Nordic Journal of Botany 24: 201–206.
- Weerasooriya, A.** and R.M.K. Saunders. 2005. The Genus *Mitrephora* (Annonaceae) in Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam. Systematic Botany 30 (2): 248–262.
- Bharathi Avula, Vaishali C. Joshi, **Aruna Weerasooriya** and Ikhlas A. Khan. 2005. Quantitative Determination and Separation of Adrenergic Amines and Flavonoids from *Poncirus trifolius* Raf. Fruits at Different Growth Stages by High performance Liquid Chromatography” Chromatographia (2005), 62, 379-383.
- Karunaratne, V., K. Bombuwala, S. Kathirgamanathar, D.N. Karunaratne, K.B. Ranawana, D.S.A. Wijesundara, **A. Weerasooriya**, and E.D. de Silva. 2002. An association between the butterfly *Talica nyseus* and the lichen *Leproloma sipmanianum* as evidenced from chemical studies. Current Science 83 (6): 741-745.
- Weerasooriya, A.** and R.M.K. Saunders. 2002. Proposals to reject the names *Mitrephora teysmannii* and *Orophea macrocarpa* (Annonaceae). Taxon 51: 191-192
- Weerasooriya, A.** and R.M.K. Saunders. 2001. *Mitrephora simeuluensis* (Annonaceae), a new species from Simeuluë, Indonesia. Blumea 46: 595-598
- Weerasooriya, A.** and R.M.K. Saunders. 2001. Three new species of *Mitrephora* (Annonaceae) from Sabah, Malaysia. Botanical Journal of the Linnean Society 135: 305- 313
- Jayasinghe, U.L.B., B.M.M. Kumarihamy, M. Nadeem, M.I. Choudhary, Attta-ur-Rahman and **A. Weerasooriya**. 2001. Iso-N-formyl-5-en-chonemorphine, a steroidal alkaloid from *Sarcococca zeylanica*. Natural Product Letters 15:151-155
- Mahaliyanage, T.D., **A. Weerasooriya** and N.K.B. Adikaram. 1999. Phytosociology and forest heath studies in Horton plains National Park. Annual Report submitted to UNDP/GEF.
- Diyabalanage, T.K.K., G.P. Wannigama, **A. Weerasooriya**, L. Jayasinghe and P. Simmonds. 1995. Ursene carboxylic acids of *Uncaria elliptica*. Phytochemistry 40: 1311-1312.

Published/Submitted Abstracts & Posters

- A. Brown, P. Amarasinghe, **A. Weerasooriya**, and J. Barouei (2022). Characterization of the microbiome involve in retting process of Cannabis sativa. ARD Research Symposium, Atlanta, GA, April 2-6, 2022.
- Robert Earl Lewis, Prabha Amarasinghe, and **Aruna Weerasooriya** (2022). Exploring the potential for hemp wax to improve the shelf life of postharvest products. ARD Research Symposium, Atlanta, GA, April 2-6, 2022.
- A'naya Ware, Prabha Amarasinghe, Addisie Geremew, Laura Carson, and **Aruna Weerasooriya** (2022). Morphological and phytochemical diversity of grain-type industrial hemp (Cannabis sativa) ARD Research Symposium, Atlanta, GA, April 2-6, 2022.
- Obeng, E., P.A.Y. Ampim and **A. Weerasooriya** (2021). Vegetable amaranth yields in high tunnel production in southeast Texas. ASA, CSSA, SSSA International Annual Meeting, Salt Lake City, UT. <https://scisoc.confex.com/scisoc/2021am/meetingapp.cgi/Paper/133251>

- Ampim, P.A.Y., E. Obeng, and **A. Weerasooriya** (2021). The response of Egyptian spinach varieties to nitrogen fertilization in a high tunnel ASA, CSSA, SSSA International Annual Meeting, Salt Lake City, UT.
<https://scisoc.confex.com/scisoc/2021am/meetingapp.cgi/Paper/133252>.
- Camille Pierre, Prabha Amarasinghe, and **Aruna Weerasooriya** (2021). Towards a Sustainable Hemp Fiber Industry in Texas: Strain Selection, Retting Optimization, and Characterization of Fibers. PA Botany Symposium.
- Phillips, G., P. Ampim, **A. Weerasooriya**, S. Woldesenbet and G. Osuji. Bioactives and compounds of industrial interest in Egyptian spinach (*Corchorus olitorius* L.) seeds. Poster presentation at the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS), Phoenix, AZ, November 1-4, 2017.
- Phillips, G., P. Ampim, **A. Weerasooriya**, S. Woldesenbet, S. Marquez and G. Osuji. The chemical composition of Egyptian spinach (*Corchorus olitorius* L.) seeds. Poster presentation at the 32nd MANRRS Conference, Pittsburgh, PA, March 29-April 1, 2017.
- Harris, P., P.A.Y. Ampim, S. Marquez and **A. Weerasooriya**. Economic potential of okra cultivation for limited resource farmers. Poster presentation at the ARD Research Symposium, Atlanta, GA, April 1-5, 2017.
- Latin, T., P. A.Y. Ampim, S. Marquez, N. Daniels, B. Lawton and **A. Weerasooriya**. Performance of Root Shield Plus organic fungicide in field grown strawberries. Oral presentation at the ARD Research Symposium, Atlanta, GA, April 1-5, 2017.
- Mbia Noah, M., P.A.Y. Ampim and **A. Weerasooriya**. Fertilizer requirement for greenhouse grown Egyptian spinach. Oral presentation at the ARD Research Symposium, Atlanta, GA, April 1-5, 2017.
- Madu S., K. Kpokpogbe, S. Marquez, P.A.Y. Ampim, M. Gao, **A. Weerasooriya**, L. Carson, P. Johnson, E. Duffus, and G.O. Osuji. Molecular plant-plant belowground interaction mechanisms in intercropped production of Egyptian spinach (*Corchorus olitorius*) and cocoyam (*Xanthosoma sagittifolium*) Poster presentation at the ARD Research Symposium, Atlanta, GA, April 1-5, 2017.
- Latin, T. P.A.Y. Ampim, S. Marquez, K. Kpokpogbe, F. Nkot, **A. D. Weerasooriya** and G.O. Osuji. Response of the strawberry cultivar - festival to organic and conventional pesticides under high tunnel and field environments. Poster presentation at the Texas A&M University System 14th Annual Pathways Student Research Symposium, Tarleton State University, Stephenville, Texas, Nov 2-3, 2017.
- Nkot., K. Kpokpogbe, P.A.Y. Ampim, **A. D. Weerasooriya**, S. Marquez and G. O. Osuji. Yield performance of Egyptian spinach and vegetable amaranth cultivars in Southeast Texas. Poster presentation at the Texas A&M University System 14th Annual Pathways Student Research Symposium, Tarleton State University, Stephenville, Texas, Nov 2-3, 2017.
- Bharathi Avula, Vaishali C. Joshi, **Aruna Weerasooriya** and Ikhlal A.Khan. 2005 "Quantitative Determination and Separation of Adrenergic Amines and Flavonoids from *Poncirus trifoliatus* Raf. Fruits at Different Growth Stages by High Performance Liquid Chromatography" International Conference Quality and Safety Issues Related to Botanicals, Oxford, MS.
- Renner, S.S. and **A. Weerasooriya**. 2002. Roles of Gondwana break-up and transoceanic dispersal in the evolution of Hernandiaceae. Botany 2002, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Wisconsin (<http://www.botany2002.org/viewer.shtml>)
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