

GAYANI THILAKARATHNA  
CURRICULUM VITAE

## Resume

Name in full                      Rathnayaka Mudiyansele **Gayani** Nilupika **Thilakarathna**  
Postal Address                    Rathna Sevana, Hirigolla, Kobeigane, Sri Lanka  
Phone ; 0761833133  
E mail: nilupikat@yahoo.com  
Designation                        Lecturer, Department of Oceanography and Marine Geology, Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology, University of Ruhuna, Sri Lanka.

## Educational qualifications

University	Degree	Subjects
University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka.	- B.Sc. (Special in Zoology) Second class (Upper division)	Zoology; Botany and Chemistry- (2004)
Murdoch University, Australia	- PhD	Marine Science (2017)

## Scholarships/Internships

1. Murdoch International Postgraduate Scholarship (2014), Australia
2. United Nations University Fellowship (2013) - “International Course on Mangrove Biodiversity and Ecosystems”, Centre for Advanced Study in Marine Biology, Faculty of Marine Sciences, Annamalai University, India.
3. Summer internship (2011) granted by Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute, Moss landing, California, USA.
4. Internship to participate the training Programme in British Natural History Museum, UK as a part of 9<sup>th</sup> Student Conference on conservation Science 2008, University of Cambridge, UK. This internship was granted by Miriam Ruth shield Trust, University of Cambridge, UK.

## Technical skills

- I have gained experience in using considerable number of softwares which frequently used in statistics and ecology.  
Software: Minitab, Genstat, SPSS, R, CPCe (Coral point count with excel extension research software), Image J, Primer v6, R
- Snorkelling/ Open water diver (PADI Diver No: 1303AM1948)
- Field Sampling skills  
Ecological sampling methods (eg. using quadrat/ belt transect method/ Line intercept transect method (LIT), using plots, Caging experiments in reefs etc.)
- Laboratory Skills  
Histological preparations  
Staining procedures  
Sea urchin taxonomy (Internship at Natural History Museum, UK) and identification  
Fish taxonomy and identification  
Age determination techniques of sea urchins (trained at MBARI, Benthic ecology lab.-USA)  
Water quality and primary productivity analysis  
Gut content analysis  
Plankton analysis and identification etc

## Certificate Courses attended

Course/ Workshop Title	Year	Institute	Country
Certificate course in environment awareness (1 year)	2002	Centre for Environmental Studies, University of Peradeniya,	Sri Lanka
Training programme on developing research competencies	2011	Higher education for the twenty first century (HETC) project, Ministry of Higher Education	Sri Lanka
Certificate course on Professional development in higher education (CCPDHE) (1 year)	2011	Staff Development Centre, University of Ruhuna	Sri Lanka
MFF Sri Lanka national training course on Project cycle management	2012	Mangroves for the Future (MFF), IUCN	Sri Lanka
Short Course Introduction Remote Sensing and GIS	2013	Arthur C Clarke Institute for Modern Technologies	Sri Lanka
International course on “Mangrove Biodiversity and Ecosystems”	2013	Centre for Advanced Study in Marine Biology, Faculty of Marine Sciences, Annamalai University	India

## Employment history

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2009 – to date	Lecturer (full time) Department of Oceanography and Marine Geology, Faculty of Fisheries, Marine Sciences and Technology, University of Ruhuna, Sri Lanka.
2014-2018	Teaching assistant (part time) for two courses, School of Veterinary and Life sciences, Murdoch University, Western Australia.
2009	Lecturer in Fisheries & Marine Sciences (full time) National Institute of Fisheries and Nautical Engineering (NIFNE), Sri Lanka.
2009	Research Assistant (full time) Ecology and Environmental Biology Project, Institute of Fundamental Studies (IFS), Sri Lanka.
2007 to 2009	Research Assistant (full time) Department of Aquaculture and Fisheries, Wayamba University of Sri Lanka.
2005 to 2007	Temporary Demonstrator (full time) Department of Aquaculture & Fisheries, Wayamba University of Sri Lanka.
2004 to 2005	Temporary Demonstrator (full time) Department of Zoology, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka.

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## Research – Achievements and Publications

### Grants Obtained

- Ruhuna University Research Grant 2011 - “Diversity of Ophiuroids in southern coast of Sri Lanka” (Co-investigator)
- Competitive Research Grant Scheme National Science Foundation (NSF) Sri Lanka- “Preparation of a national collection and evaluation of the current distribution and species diversity of regular and irregular echinoids (Class: Echinoidea Phylum: Echinodermata) in Sri Lanka and determining the diet composition of *Stomopneustes variolaris*”(Co-investigator)-2011
- NSF, Sri Lanka overseas training programme grant-2011
- NSF, Sri Lanka travel grant -2008

## Research – Experience

1. A study of diversity of birds associated with the Kobeigane tank in the north western province, Sri Lanka. (1 yr)
2. A study on the recovery of a rocky littoral zone and adjacent coastal vegetation after “Amanath Shah” oil spill in year 2006 in southern coast of Sri Lanka. (Research grant under Marine Pollution Prevention Authority, Sri Lanka) 1yr
3. A study of diversity, current distribution and population status of sea urchins in relation to their habitat characteristics and anthropogenic disturbance. (Research grant under National Science Foundation, Sri Lanka (No: RG/2006/MS/03)(3 Yrs)
4. Sea Urchin Taxonomy (Dept. of Zoology and Dept. of Palaeontology, Natural history Museum, London, UK (3 weeks)
5. Age determination of deep-sea urchin *Strongylocentrotus fragilis* Jackson, 1912 - Internship project, Monterey bay Aquarium Research Institute (MBARI), Moss landing, California, USA (2 ½ months)
6. Diversity of Ophiuroids in Southern Coast of Sri Lanka (Project under Ruhuna University Research Grant Programme, Sri Lanka.) (1 yr)
7. Member - Ballast water research team for the Port Baseline Biological Survey in Colombo Harbour, Sri Lanka
8. Population biology and grazing processes of the sea urchin *Centrostephanus tenuispinus* (Clark, 1914) inhabiting coral and macroalgal dominated reefs. (PhD study 3 yr)
9. Port Baseline Biological survey -Determination of invasiveness survey (Team Leader/fouling and epifauna group)

## Research – Publications

### Full Papers in refereed journal;

1. De Croos, M.D.S.T, Pálsson S and **Thilakarathna, R.M.G.N.** (2011) Sex ratios, sexual maturity, fecundity and spawning seasonality of *Metapenaeus dobsoni* off the western coastal waters of Sri Lanka. *Invertebrate Reproduction and Development*. 55: 110-123.
2. Thilakarathne, E.P.D.N., Terney Pradeep, K.P.B. and **Thilakarathna, R.M.G.N.**, (2015) Diversity and distribution of cetaceans off southern coast of Sri Lanka I; Relationship with depth. *Sri Lanka Journal of Aquatic Sciences*.20(1).23-33.
3. Thilakarathne, E.P.D.N., Terney Pradeep, K.P.B. and **Thilakarathna, R.M.G.N.**, (2015) Diversity and distribution of cetaceans off southern coast of Sri Lanka II; Relationship with Sea surface temperature, Salinity and Water Density. *Sri Lanka Journal of Aquatic Sciences*.20(1).35-45.

### Some selected Conference presentations;

1. **Thilakarathna, R.M.G.N.**, Van Keulen, M. and Keesing, J. (2018) Status of Sea urchin *Centrostephanus tenuispinus*; Coral dominated reef vs macroalgae dominated reef on the west coast of Australia- International Echinoderm Conference, Nagoya, Japan.
2. **Thilakarathna, R.M.G.N.**, Van Keulen, M. and Keesing, J. (2016) Role of Sea urchin *Centrostephanus tenuispinus* (Clark, 1914) as a bio-eroder- in Hall Bank (32° 2.002'S and 115° 42.957'E) Reef Western Australia"- International Coral Reef Symposium, Hawaii, USA
3. De Croos, M.D.ST., Weerasekara, K.A.W.S., Hettige, H.D., **Thilakarathna, R.M.G.N.**, Priyadarshan, R.N., De Silva, L.L.R.B. and Gunasekara, K.A.U.S. (2014) Ballast water: availability of non-indigenous species and degree of management practices compliance by the ships arrived at the Colombo port Sri Lanka. *Proceedings of the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Sessions of the Sri Lanka Association for Fisheries and Aquatic Resources*. 11p
4. Thilakarathne, E.P.D.N., Terney Pradeep, K.P.B. and **Thilakarathna, R.M.G.N.**, (2013) Diversity and distribution pattern of cetaceans in the southern coast of Sri Lanka. *Proceedings of the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Sessions of the Sri Lanka Association for Fisheries and Aquatic Resources*.32p
5. **Thilakarathna, R.M.G.N.**, Jayakody, S. and Amarasinghe M.D. (2012) Annual fluctuations in populations of sea urchin *Stomopneustes variolaris* (Lamarck, 1816) in two rocky shores of southern Sri Lanka. *Proceedings of the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Sessions of the Sri Lanka Association for Fisheries and Aquatic Resources*.1p

6. **Thilakarathna, R.M.G.N.**, Jayakody, S. and Amarasinghe M.D. (2011) A comparison of reproductive biology of the sea urchin *Stomopneustes variolaris* (Lamarck, 1816) in two rocky shores of Sri Lanka. Proceedings of the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Sessions of the Sri Lanka Association for Fisheries and Aquatic Resources.17p.
7. **Thilakarathna, R.M.G.N.**, Jayakody, S. and Amarasinghe M.D.(2010) Fluctuations of sea urchins (Class: Echinoidea) in Hikkaduwa (protected but highly disturbed) and Ahangama (unprotected and less disturbed) in Sri Lanka with macro algae cover. 11<sup>th</sup> Student Conference on Conservation Science, University of Cambridge, UK.47p.
8. **Thilakarathna, R.M.G.N.**, Jayakody, S. and Amarasinghe M.D.(2009) Spatio-temporal Variations of Sea Urchin Populations (Phylum: Echinodermata; Class: Echinoidea) in Two Rocky beaches with Varying Levels of Protection.10<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Ecology, Brisbane, Australia.
9. **Thilakarathna, R.M.G.N.** and Jayakody, S. (2008) A Study on Identification and Distribution of Sea Urchins (Phylum: Echinodermata, Class: Echinoidea) in Coastal Zone of Sri Lanka. 9<sup>th</sup> Student Conference on Conservation Science, University of Cambridge, UK.57p.
10. **Thilakarathna, R.M.G.N.** and Santiapillai, C. (2007) Diversity, annual and diurnal fluctuations of birds associated with a seasonal reservoir in dry zone lowlands of Sri Lanka. Proceedings of British Ecological society, UK,46p.