

CHAMINDIKA L. SIRIWARDANA

A&M-Central Texas
1001 Leadership Place
Killeen, TX 76549

CURRENT POSITION

University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK

Postdoctoral Research Associate, Department of Microbiology and Plant Biology, March 2016

- Present

EDUCATION

University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK

Ph.D. Plant Biology, 2014

Dissertation: "Molecular Characterization of the NF-Y Transcription Factor Family in Arabidopsis"

Texas State University, San Marcos, TX

M.S. Biology, 2009

Thesis: "Identification and Molecular Characterization of Novel Genes Involved in Auxin Signaling"

University of Peradeniya, Peradeniya, Sri Lanka

B.Sc. Botany, 2006

AWARDS AND HONORS

Travel Grant, 28 th International Conference on Arabidopsis Research (ICAR)	2017
Pfiester Women in Science Scholarship, University of Oklahoma	2014
Sooner Heritage Scholarship, University of Oklahoma	2011-2014
Robert E. and Mary B. Sturgis Scholarship, University of Oklahoma	2012
George L. and Cleo Cross Graduate Student Award, University of Oklahoma	2011
Graduate Student Senate Conference Grant, University of Oklahoma	2011
Colene Drace Cell Biology Award, Texas State University	2009
Prof. M.D. Dassanayaka Gold Medal for Botany, University of Peradeniya	2006
University Award for Academic Excellence, University of Peradeniya	2006

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK

Adjunct Lecturer,

Cell Biology Laboratory (MBIO4263/PBIO4263), Fall 2016

Designed and taught course

Guest Lecturer,

Introductory Bioinformatics (MBIO4810/PBIO4810), Spring 2013, 2014, 2017

Graduate Teaching Assistant,

Introductory Bioinformatics (MBIO4810/PBIO4810), Spring 2013-2014

Principles of Plant Physiology (PBIO4114), Fall 2009-2013

Ecology and Environment Quality (BOT2404), Spring 2010

General Botany (PBIO1114), Fall 2011

Texas State University, San Marcos, TX

Graduate Instructional Assistant

Economic Botany (BIO3406), Fall 2007-2008

Plant Physiology (BIO3465), Fall 2007

General Science (GS3310), Spring 2008-2009

University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka

Demonstrator, 2006-2007

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK

Postdoctoral Research Associate, March 2016 – Present

Adviser: Dr. Ben F. Holt III

Functional analysis of the Arabidopsis NF-YB protein family

Graduate Research Assistant, Fall 2009 – Spring 2014

PUBLICATIONS

1. Risinger J.R., **Siriwardana C.L.***, Carpenter E., Jones D.S., Kumimoto R.W., Holt B.F. III. Analysis of gene duplication within the Arabidopsis *NF-YB* gene family reveals domains under both purifying and diversifying selection. Manuscript in preparation for submission to *Molecular Biology and Evolution*. * co-first author.
2. Gnesutta N., Kumimoto R.W., Swain S., Chiara M., Horner D., **Siriwardana C.L.**, Holt III B.F., Mantovani R. (2017) CONSTANS imparts DNA sequence-specificity to the histone-fold NF-YB/NF-YC subunits. *Plant Cell*.
3. **Siriwardana C.L.**, Gnesutta N., Kumimoto R.W., Jones D.S., Myers Z.A., Mantovani R., Holt III B.F. (2016). NUCLEAR FACTOR Y, subunit A (NF-YA) proteins positively regulate flowering and act through FLOWERING LOCUS T. *PLoS Genetics*.
4. Myers Z.A., Kumimoto R.W., **Siriwardana C.L.**, Gayler K.K., Risinger J.R., Pezzetta D., Holt B.F. III. (2016) NUCLEAR FACTOR Y (NF-Y) transcription factors are broadly required for light perception in Arabidopsis thaliana. *PLoS Genetics*.
5. Swain S., Myers Z.A., **Siriwardana C.L.**, Holt B.F. III. (2016). The multifaceted roles of NUCLEAR FACTOR-Y in Arabidopsis thaliana development and stress responses. *Biochimica et Biophysica (BBA) – Gene Regulatory Mechanisms*.
6. Jayaweera T., **Siriwardana C.L.**, Dharmasiri S., Quint M., Gray W.M., Dharmasiri N. Alternative splicing of Arabidopsis IBR5 pre-mRNA generates two IBR5 isoforms with distinct and overlapping function. *PLoS One*.
7. **Siriwardana C.L.**, Kumimoto R.W., Jones D.S., Holt B.F. III. (2014) Overexpression of the Arabidopsis NF-YA transcription factor family leads to opposing abscisic acid responses during seed germination. *Plant Molecular Biology Reporter*.

8. Kumimoto R.W., **Siriwardana C.L.**, Gayler K.K., Risinger J.R., Siefers N., Holt B.F. III. (2013). NUCLEAR FACTOR Y Transcription Factors Have Both Opposing and Additive Roles in ABA-Mediated Seed Germination. *PLoS One*.
9. Cao S., Kumimoto R.W., **Siriwardana C.L.**, Risinger J.R., Holt B.F. III. (2011). Identification and Characterization of NF-Y Transcription Factor Families in the Monocot Model Plant *Brachypodium distachyon*. *PLoS One*.
10. Cao S., **Siriwardana C.L.**, Kumimoto R.W., Holt B.F. III. (2011). Construction of High Quality Gateway Entry Libraries and Their Application to Yeast Two-hybrid for the Monocot Model Plant *Brachypodium distachyon*. *BMC Biotechnology*.
11. Abayasekara C.L., **Siriwardana C.L.**, Razaak M.G.M., (2007). Water Quality of Maha Oya Stream in Peradeniya. *Ceylon Journal of Science*.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

1. **Siriwardana C.L.**, Gnesutta N., Mantovai R., Holt III. B. (2017) NUCLEAR FACTOR Y, subunit A (NF-YA) proteins positively regulate flowering and act through FLOWERING LOCUS T. *28th International Conference on Arabidopsis Research (ICAR), St. Louis, Missouri, USA*
2. Myers Z., Kumimoto R., **Siriwardana C.**, Holt B.F. III (2017) Roles of the NUCLEAR FACTOR-Y as regulators of light-mediated development. *28th International Conference on Arabidopsis Research (ICAR), St. Louis, Missouri, USA*
3. Gnesutta N., Kumimoto R. W., Swain S., Chiara M., **Siriwardana C.**, Horner D., Holt B.F. III., Mantovani R. (2017) CONSTANS imparts DNA sequence-specificity to the histone-fold NF-YB/NF-YC dimer. *28th International Conference on Arabidopsis Research (ICAR), St. Louis, Missouri, USA*
4. Jayaweera T., **Siriwardana C.**, Dharmasiri S., Quint M., Gray W., Dharmasiri N. (2012) Characterization of new mutant alleles of IBR5 indicates the relevance of its catalytic domain in plant auxin response, *2012 Annual Meeting of the American Society of Plant Biologist, Austin, Texas, USA*
5. **Siriwardana C.L.**, Kumimoto R.W., Holt III B. F. (2011) The Role of Arabidopsis NF-YA Transcription Factors in Regulating Abscisic Acid Mediated Drought Responses, *22nd International Conference on Arabidopsis Research (ICAR), Madison, Wisconsin, USA*
6. Kumimoto R.W., **Siriwardana C.L.**, Gayler K., Risinger J., Holt III B.F. (2011) The role of NF-Y transcription factors in ABA responses, *22nd International Conference on Arabidopsis Research (ICAR), Madison, Wisconsin, USA*
7. Jayaweera T., Dharmasiri S., **Siriwardana C.**, Dharmasiri N. (2010) Plant auxin response is modulated through ABA signaling in response to environmental stress, *International Research Conference for Graduate Students, Texas State University, San Marcos, USA*
8. **Siriwardana C.**, Karunarathna N., Dharmasiri S., Albers S., Koke J., Dharmasiri N (2009) Characterization of pic59, a novel Arabidopsis mutant associated with auxin response. *9th International Plant Molecular Biology Congress, St. Louis, Missouri, USA*
9. **Siriwardana C.**, Karunarathna N., Dharmasiri S., Gunathilake A., Dharmasiri N (2009) PIC59, a novel gene associated with auxin signaling, *2009 Annual Meeting of the South Section of American Society of Plant Biologist, Austin, Texas, USA*
10. Karunarathna N., Dharmasiri S., **Siriwardana C.L.**, Gunathilake A., Dharmasiri N (2009) Auxin resistant mutant *pic11* encodes IAA28 that regulates growth and development of *Arabidopsis thaliana*, *2009 Annual Meeting of the South Section of American Society of Plant Biologist, Austin, Texas, USA*

11. Dharmasiri N., Dharmasiri S., Gunathilake A. Karunarithna N., **Siriwardana C.**, Collier C. (2008) Characterization of new auxin response mutants in Arabidopsis. *SAAS (Society of American Agricultural Scientists) Convention, Dallas, Texas, USA*
12. Abayasekara C.L., **Siriwardana C.L.**, Razaak M.G.M., (2007). Water Quality of Maha Oya Stream in Peradeniya. *PURSE, University of Peradeniya, Peradeniya, Sri Lanka.*

MEMBERSHIP

American Society of Plant Biologist

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Manuscript Reviewer

Plant Cell, PLoS One and Scientific Reports

Undergraduate Student Mentoring

Ashley Robbins, University of Oklahoma 2010

Conner F. Boatright, University of Oklahoma 2012-2013

Zack Myers, University of Oklahoma 2013

Department Services

Graduate student representative for the selection committee to recruit a new faculty member specializing in plant molecular biology for the Department of Microbiology and Plant Biology, University of Oklahoma.

Department of Microbiology and Plant Biology
136 George Lynn Cross Hall, 770 Van Vleet Oval
Norman, OK 73019
srussell@ou.edu
405-325-4391