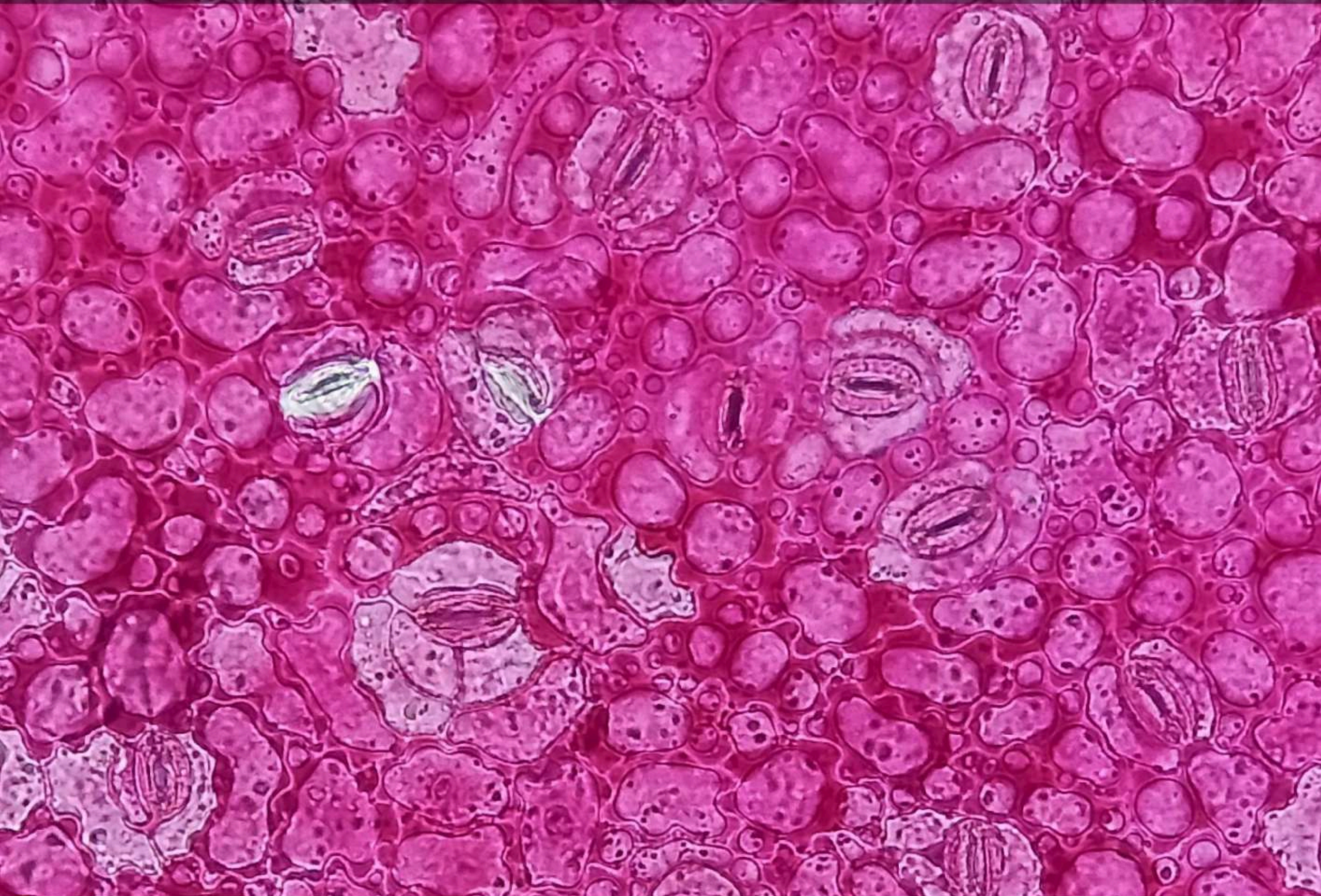


BITSOC NEWS

E-CIRCULATED NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2024

VOLUME 16 | ISSUE II

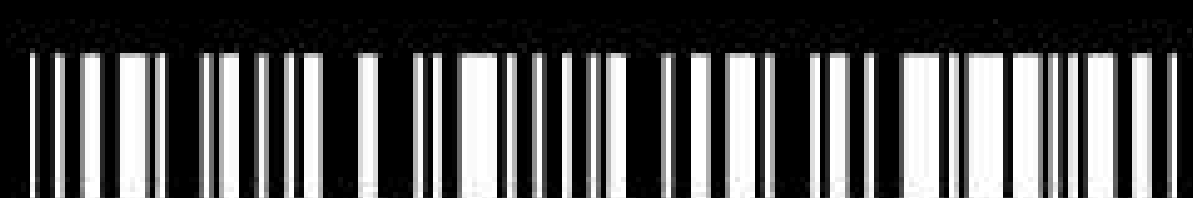


A Picturesque arrangement of stomata in the sub-epidermal layer of a plant leaf with vibrant crimson hues

BITSOC LENS MICROSCOPIC PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION- WINNER
R.K.B.N. Randeni - Wayamba University of Sri Lanka



BIOTECHNOLOGY SOCIETY (BITSOC)
DEPARTMENT OF BIOTECHNOLOGY
FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE AND PLANTATION MANAGEMENT
WAYAMBA UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA



BITSOC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2024

Message from the New President

I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to each of you for placing your trust in me as the President of the Biotechnology Society (BitSoc) for the year 2024/ 2025. Your confidence means the world to me, and it truly inspires me to give my absolute best in working toward our society's goals.

I'm both excited and ready to take on the challenges of the coming year, and I'm looking forward to continuing the amazing work that BitSoc has accomplished. I also want to acknowledge the outstanding dedication of the previous executive committee and all past BitSoc members. They've set a high standard, and I hope to build on their legacy with the support of my team.

Mr R.D.K. Dilshan
President- BitSoc- Year 2024/ 2025

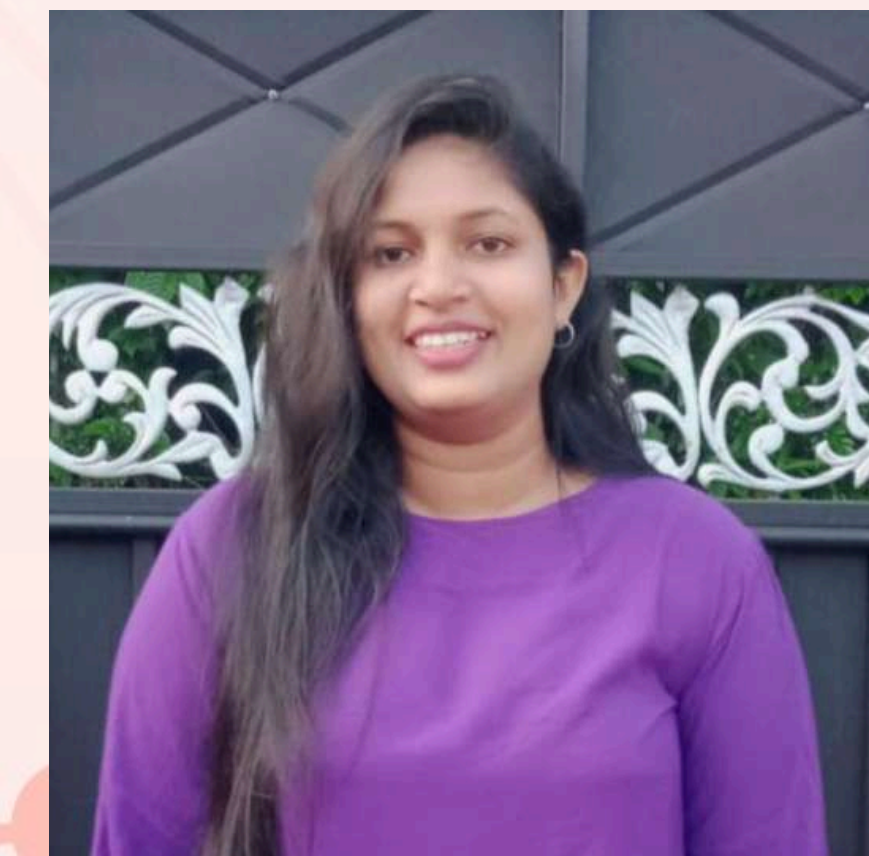


Annual General Meeting of BitSoc - 2024

The 15th Annual General Meeting was held on 1st November 2024 via Zoom with the participation of the academic staff members of the Department of Biotechnology and students representing all four batches. New office bearers were appointed for the year 2024/ 2025. The outgoing committee led by the former president Mr P.G.S.C. Ariyaratne was appreciated for their immense cooperation towards the continuation of BitSoc activities.



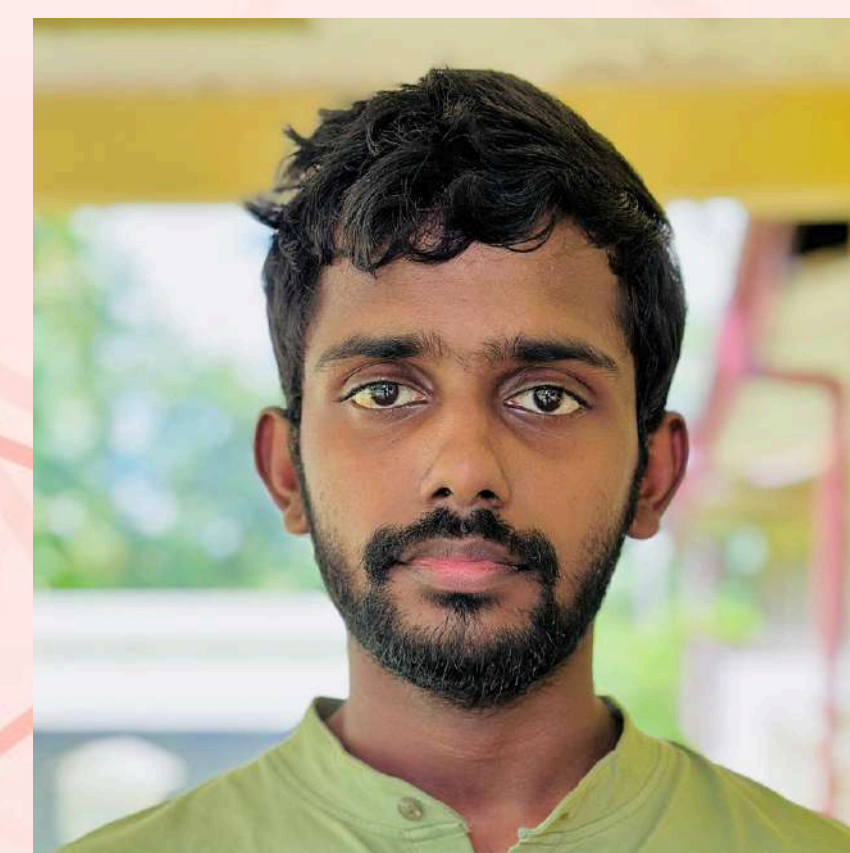
President



Secretary

The Steering Committee Members (Year 2024/ 2025)

- **President:** Mr R.D.K. Dilshan
- **Secretary:** Ms M.A.H.I.M. Perera
- **Vice President:** Mr H.P. S. Namina
- **Assistant Secretary:** Ms D.K.S. Hettiarachchi
- **Senior Treasurer:** Dr K.M. Mewan
- **Junior Treasurer:** Ms N.S. Samaraweera
- **Editor:** Dr (Ms) P.S. Warakagoda
- **Advisor:** Dr (Ms) P.S. Warakagoda



Vice President



Assistant Secretary



Junior Treasurer

Executive Committee members (Year 2024/ 2025)

- Prof. (Mrs) B.L.W.K. Balasooriya
- Dr (Mrs) D.R. Gimhani
- Mr P.G.S.C. Ariyaratne
- Ms T.N. Marabage
- Mr U.J. Nishshanka
- Ms B.S.N. Mendis
- Mr W.M.H. Wijetunga
- Mr S.K.T.N.B. Dharmasiri



Executive Committee Member (4th year)



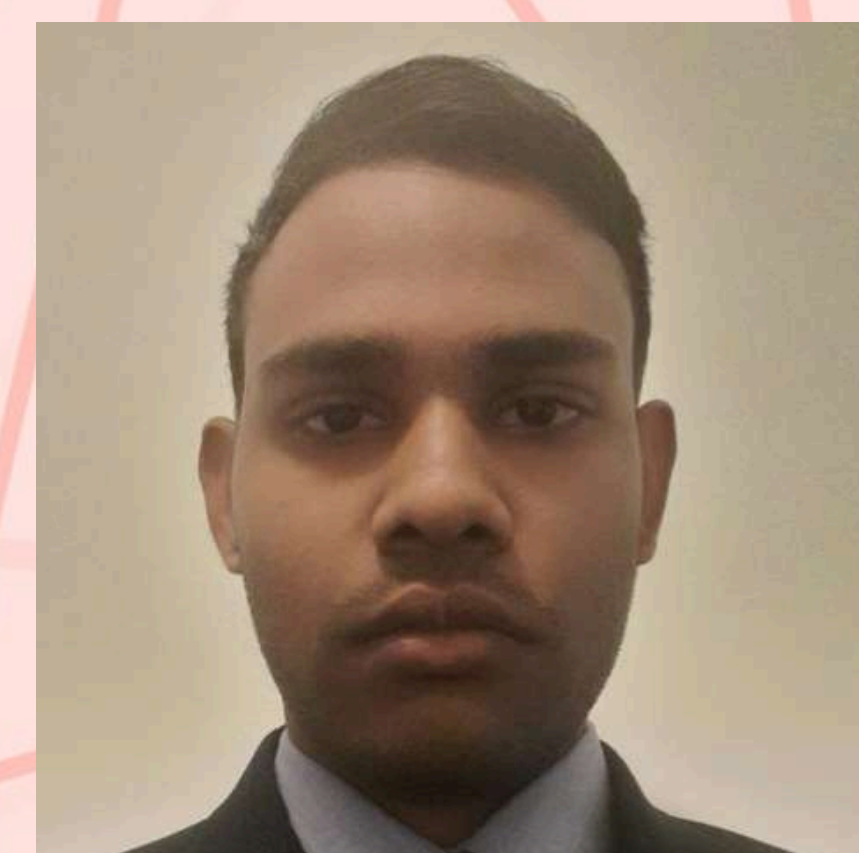
Executive Committee Member (4th year)



Executive Committee Member (3rd year)



Executive Committee Member (3rd year)



Executive Committee Member (2nd year)



Executive Committee Member (1st year)

BITSOC EVENTS

BITSOC TECH TALK SERIES

Under the BitSoc Tech Talks Series, three webinars were conducted offering valuable learning opportunities on software applications related to Biotechnology for a wider audience.

The series began with BitSoc Tech Talks 1.0: Introduction to Python for Biotechnology on 3rd August 2024. The resource person was Mr. Maneesha Nirman, Software Engineer, Virtusa assisted by his team consisting of Mr. S.U. Ekanayake, Software Engineer, Virtusa and Mr. Gagana Abeyrathna, Software Engineer, SPIL Labs.

The BitSoc Tech Talks 2.0: Advanced Python for Biotechnology was held on 18th August 2024, built upon the foundations of the first webinar introducing advanced Python modules and libraries used in biotechnology.

The BitSoc Tech Talks 3.0: Computational Tools in Synthetic Biology Applications, was held on 6th October 2024, featured Dr. Lalinka Herath, Lecturer, Department of Life Sciences, Faculty of Science, NSBM Green University Sri Lanka and focused on computational tools and software used in synthetic biology.



INTRODUCTION

PYTHON FOR BIOTECHNOLOGY

With **MANEESHA NIRMAN**
Engineer - VIRTUSA

E- certificate will be offered at the end of the Tech Talks 2.0 Session

BIOTECHNOLOGY SOCIETY
FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE AND PLANTATION MANAGEMENT
WAYAMBA UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA

Sat, 3 Aug 2024
06:30 PM

MORE INFO
+94 765 367 949 (Sanjula)
bitsocwyb@gmail.com



#BITSOC2024



ADVANCED PYTHON

PYTHON FOR BIOTECHNOLOGY

With **MANEESHA NIRMAN**
Engineer - VIRTUSA

BIOTECHNOLOGY SOCIETY
FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE AND PLANTATION MANAGEMENT
WAYAMBA UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA

Sun, 18 Aug 2024
06:30PM


MORE INFO
+94 765 367 949 (Sanjula)
bitsocwyb@gmail.com

#BITSOC2024



COMPUTATIONAL TOOLS IN SYNTHETIC BIOLOGY APPLICATIONS

REGISTER NOW



BITSOC TECH TALKS 3.0 SPECIAL WEBINAR

GUEST LECTURER
DR. Lalinka Herath
PhD in Genetic Engineering
Lecturer
Department of Life Sciences
Faculty of Science
NSBM Green University Sri Lanka

Oct, 06 Aug 2024
10:00 AM

MORE INFO
+94 765 367 949 (Sanjula)
bitsocwyb@gmail.com

Valuable E - certificate will be provided

#BITSOC2024

Through these webinars, BitSoc provided a collaborative platform where participants could exchange ideas, share knowledge, and explore the latest advancements in biotechnology, fostering an interactive environment for learning and professional growth.

BITSOC EVENTS

BITSOC HACKATHON

FIRST EVER BIOTECHNOLOGY-BASED HACKATHON IN SRI LANKA



BitSoc Hackathon is a competition to showcase innovative ideas in resolving current challenges in the agricultural biotechnology sector in Sri Lanka. This is the first biotechnology-focused hackathon ever held in Sri Lanka. The competition was conducted in two categories: University and school level.

The competition spanned on several phases: Registration and Task Reveal, which commenced on 15th August 2024 with 25 teams registering from universities and schools across Sri Lanka. The proposal submission was closed on 25th September 2024. The submitted proposals were evaluated for creativity and relevance and seven universities and four schools were selected as finalists. The Grand Finale was held on 15th October 2024 during the Biotechnology Day 2024. The judging panel of the grand finale consisted of Senior Professor Nisha Kottearachchi, Dr Wajira Balasooriya, and Dr Surantha Salgadoe.

University Category Winners



Winner
Bio Innovators
Sri Lanka Institute of Information
Technology



Runners-up
Team Genius
Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka



2nd Runners-up
Aqua N2
Business Management School (BMS)

School Category Winners



Winner
HSS 2
Harangala Secondary School



Runners-up
Galactic Minds
Girls' High School, Kandy



2nd Runners-up
HSS 1
Harangala Secondary School

Winners received trophies, certificates, and cash prizes, while all finalists were awarded participation certificates. The BitSoc Hackathon marked a milestone for the Biotechnology Society, showcasing the nation's growing interest and potential in biotechnology innovation and uniting a diverse group of young innovators across Sri Lanka.

BITSOC EVENTS

BITSOC LENS

MICROSCOPIC PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION



The BitSoc LENS Microscopic Photographic Competition, which concluded on 17th June 2024, attracted applicants from universities and research institutions across Sri Lanka. It provided a platform for undergraduates, researchers and experts to showcase their creativity and passion for science through microscopic photography captured while following practical and research. About 40 applicants showcased their artistic and scientific talents, capturing stunning images that enriched the scientific community.

Winners were awarded with certificates for their achievements, recognizing their contributions to blending art and science through microscopic photography. The received photographs were displayed at the BitSoc LENS Microscopic Photographic Exhibition during Biotechnology Day 2024.

Winners



Winner

R.K.B.N. Randeni
Wayamba University of Sri Lanka



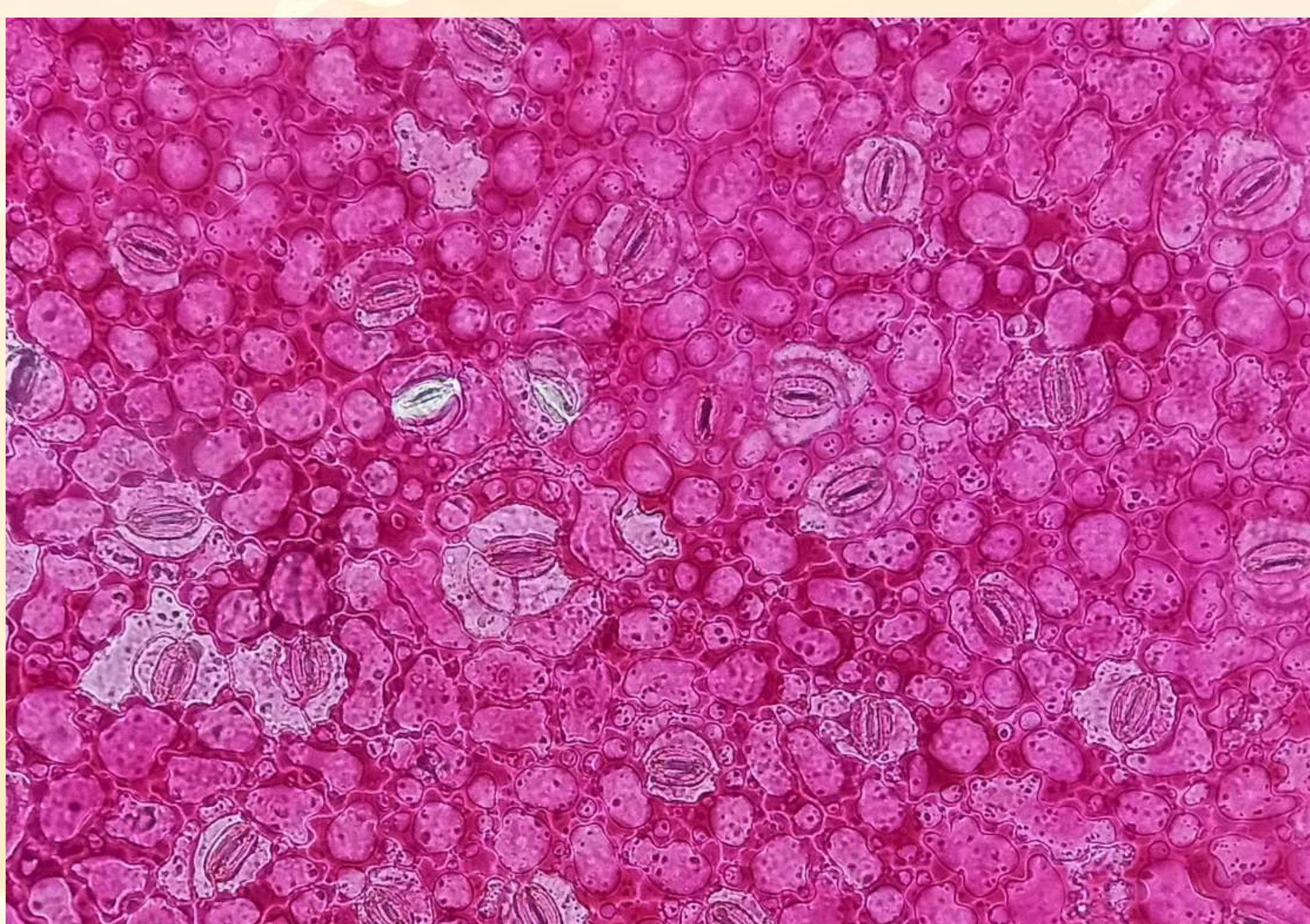
Runners-up

S.F. Sabra
Business Management School (BMS)



2nd Runners-up

R.M.D. Rathnayake
Wayamba University of Sri Lanka



Sub-Epidermal Stomata

A picturesque arrangement of stomata in the sub epidermal of a plant leaf with vibrant crimson hues



Feeding the fallen

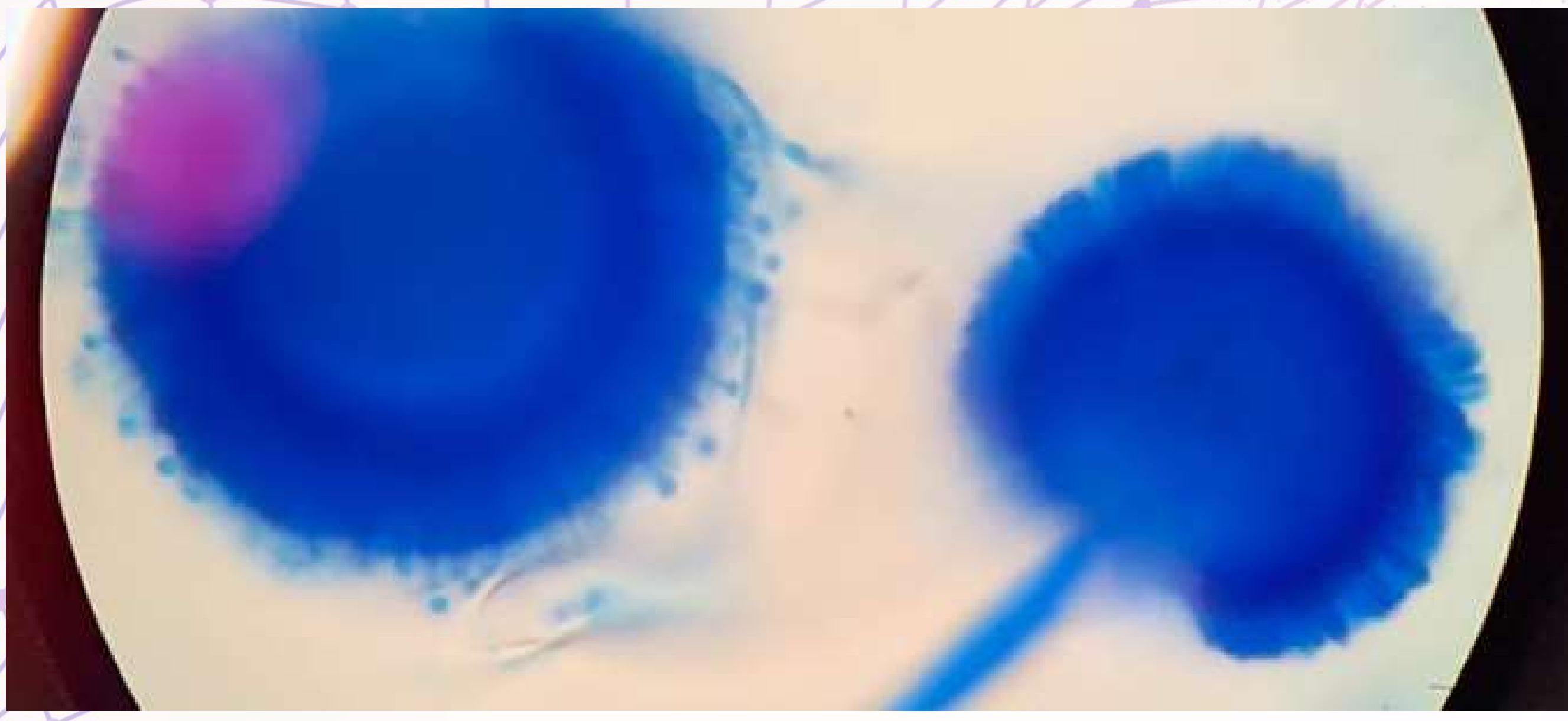
A parasite's emergence from the remains of it's host - a testament to nature's complexity



Licmophora ehrenbergii

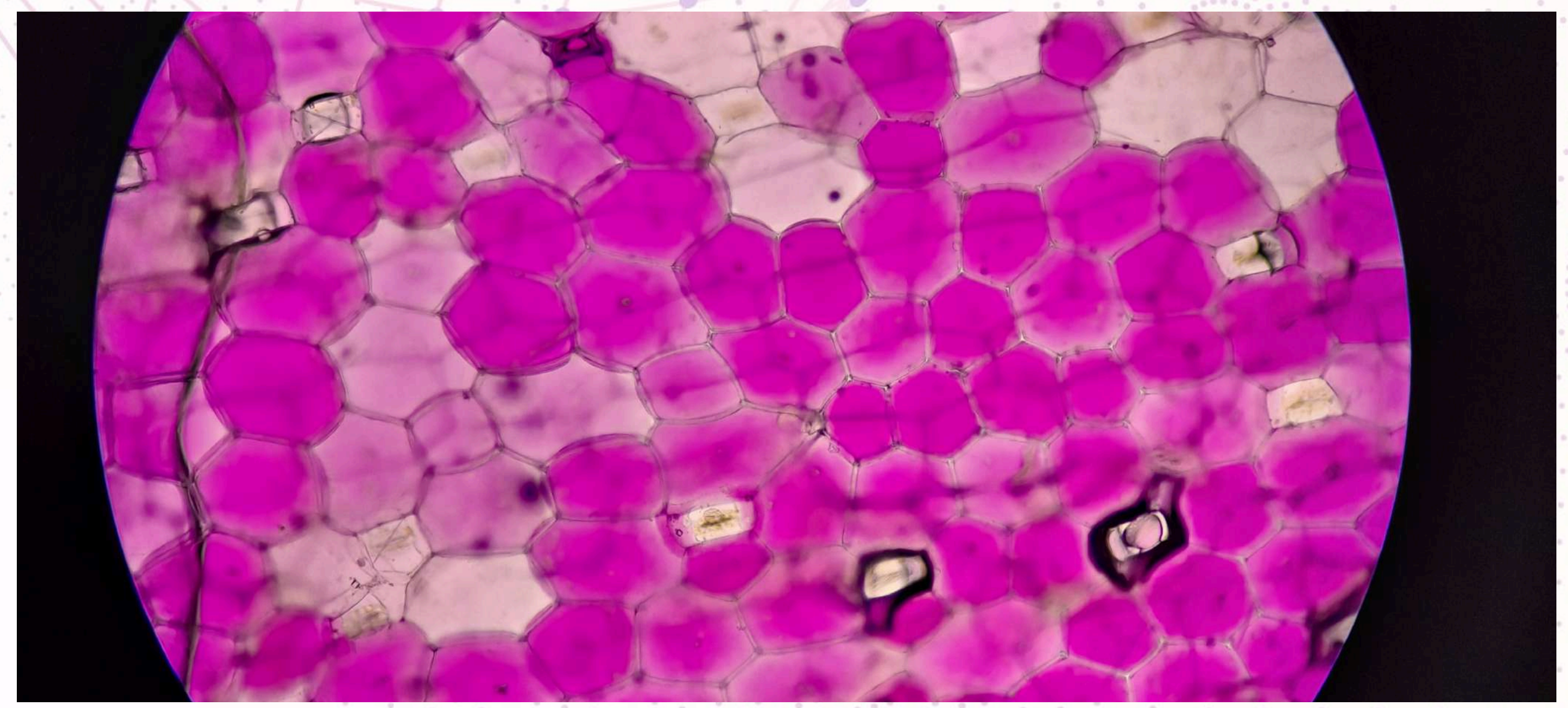
A marine micro-algae observed through digital light microscope

Merits



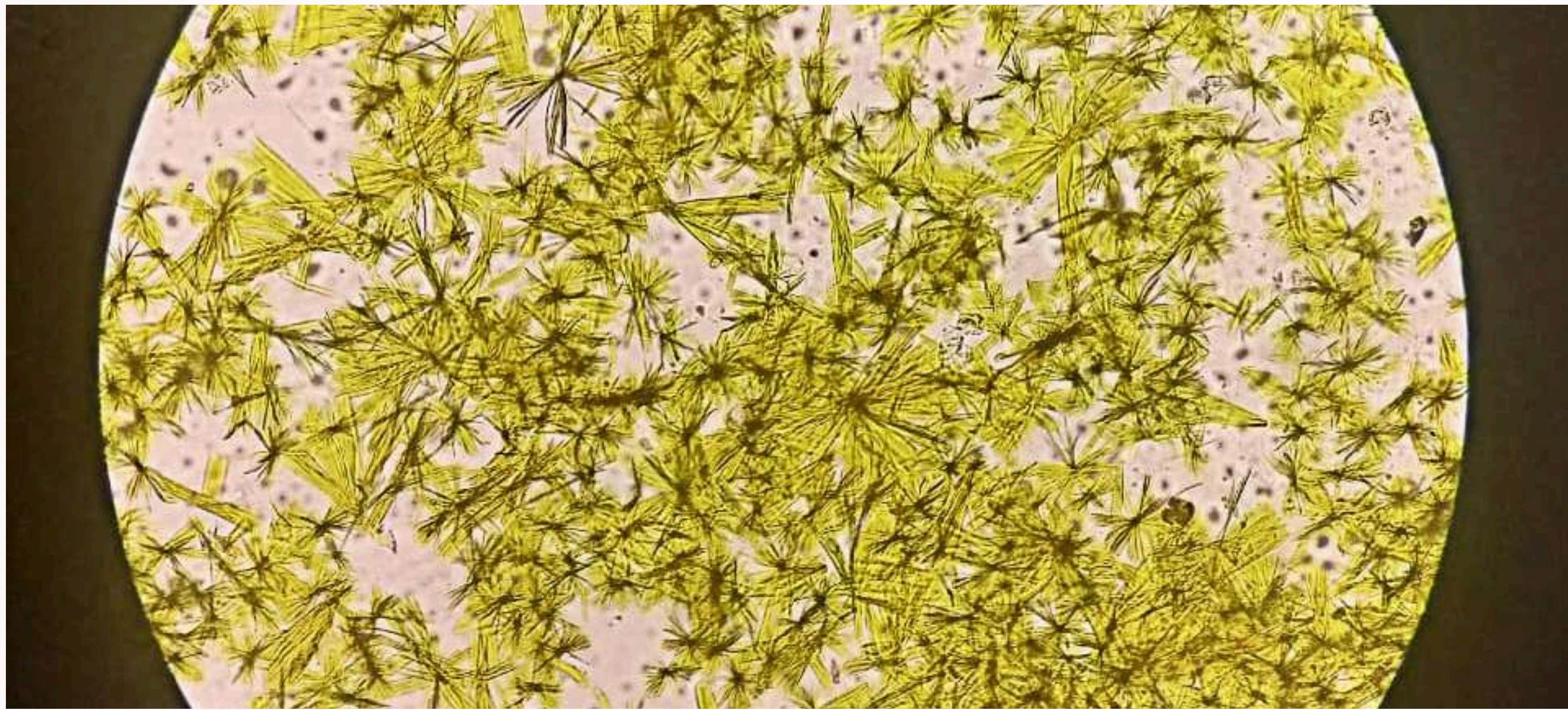
A species of *Aspergillus* genus isolated from *Acrostichum aureum*

R. Kavindya
University of Colombo



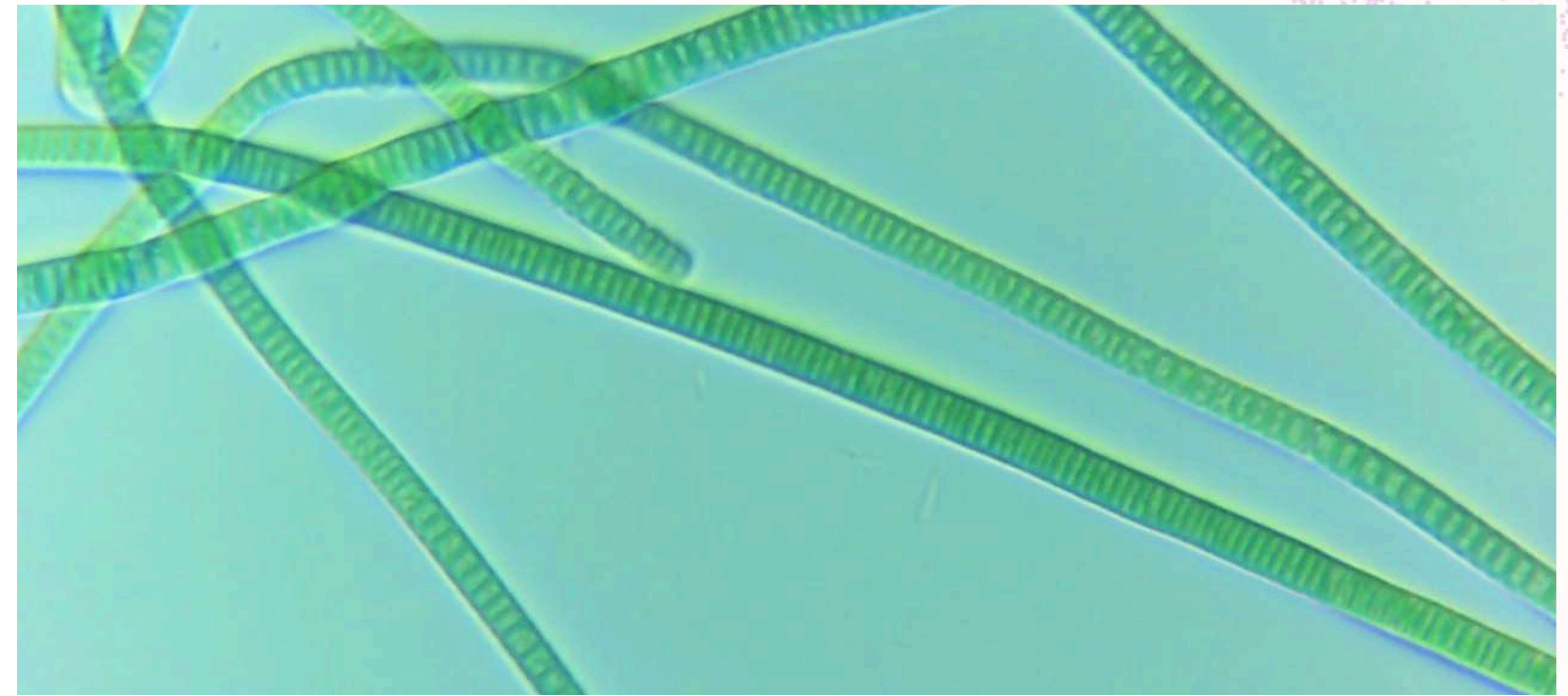
A microscopic view of a biological sample

T.U.R.N.M. Dharmathilake
Wayamba University of Sri Lanka



A microscopic view of maltose crystals formed by the osazone test

I. de Silva
Wayamba University of Sri Lanka



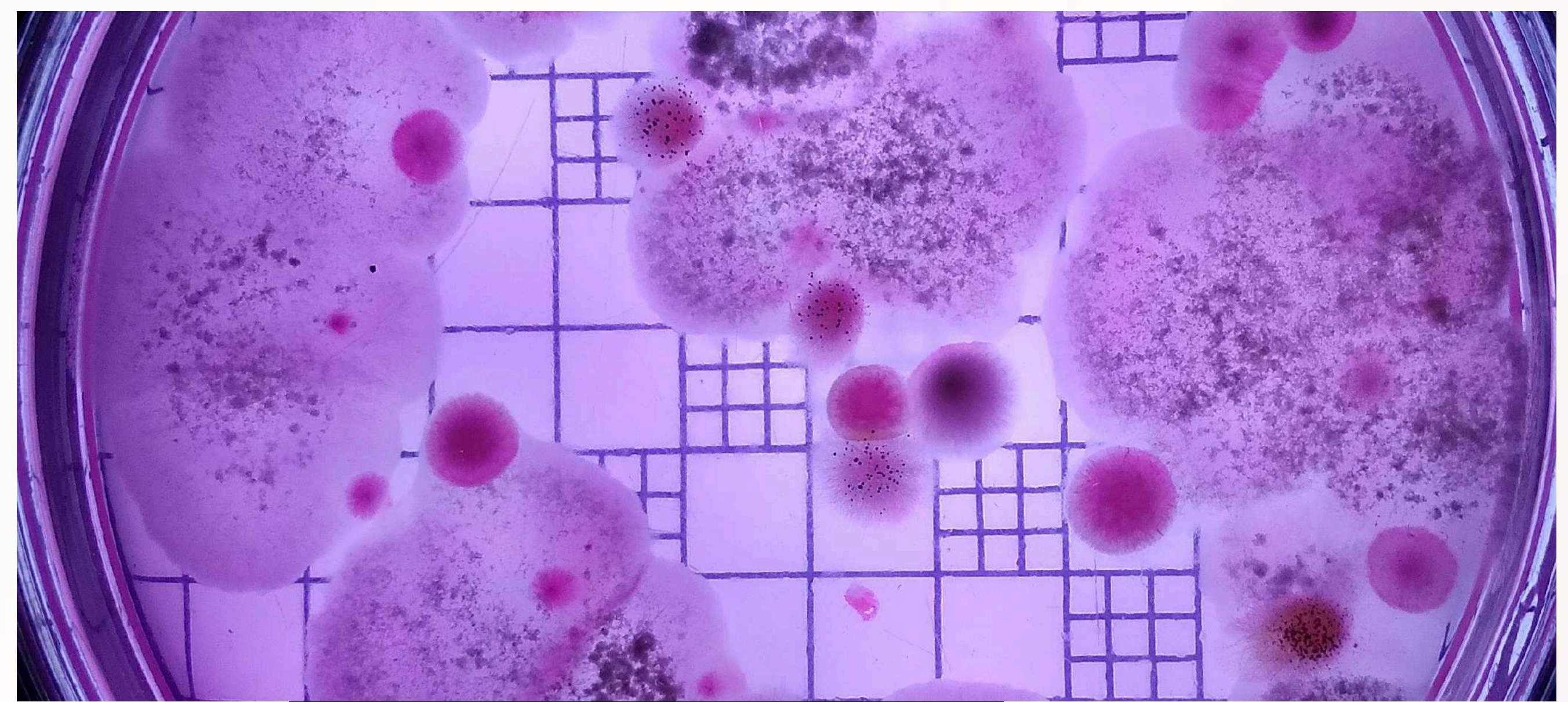
The pure cultures of Cyanobacteria *Oscillatoria* sp.

I.G.S.S. Ekanayaka
Rajarata University of Sri Lanka



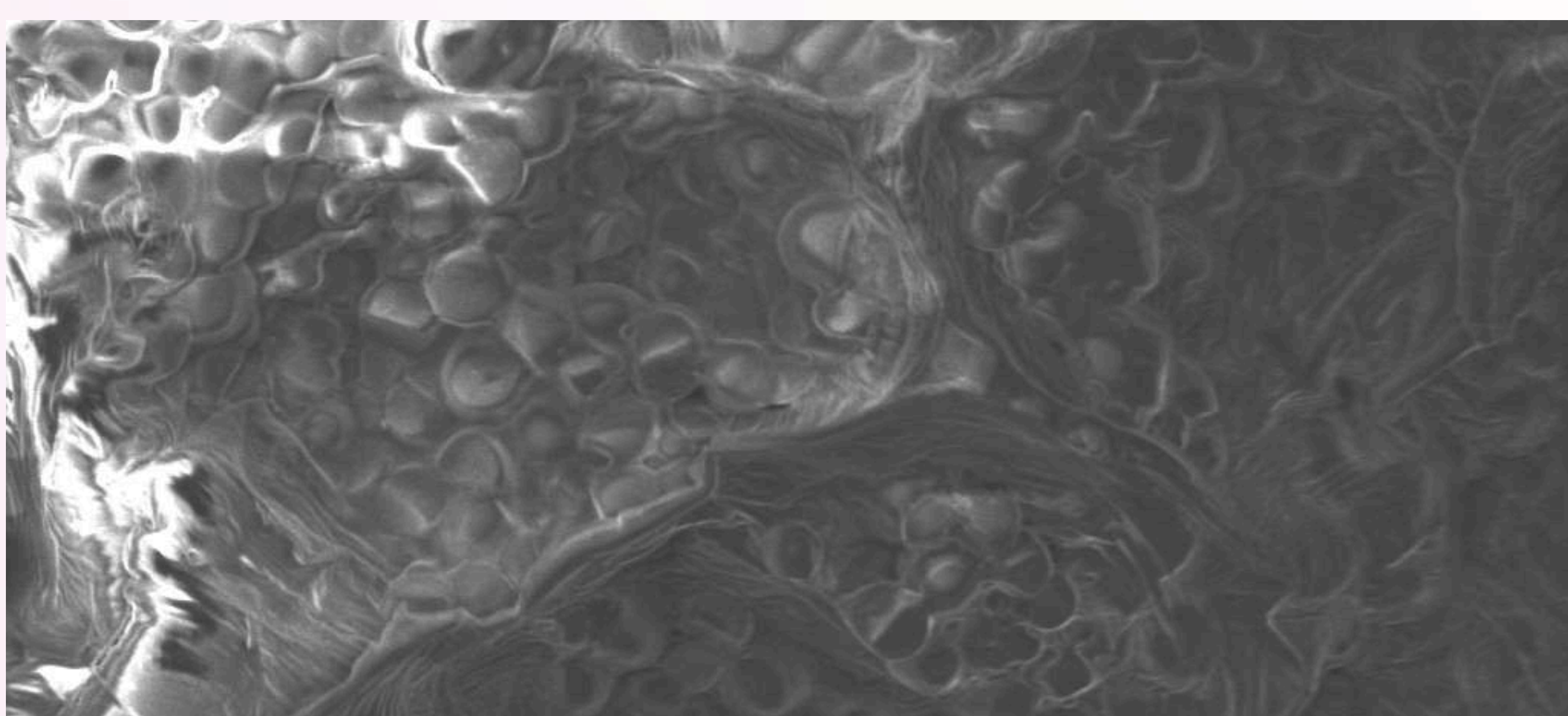
Visible finger friction ridge under x40 magnification

C. Riyashini
Business Management School



A fungal culture plate observed under a colony counter

H.P.S.R. Premaratne
University of Peradeniya



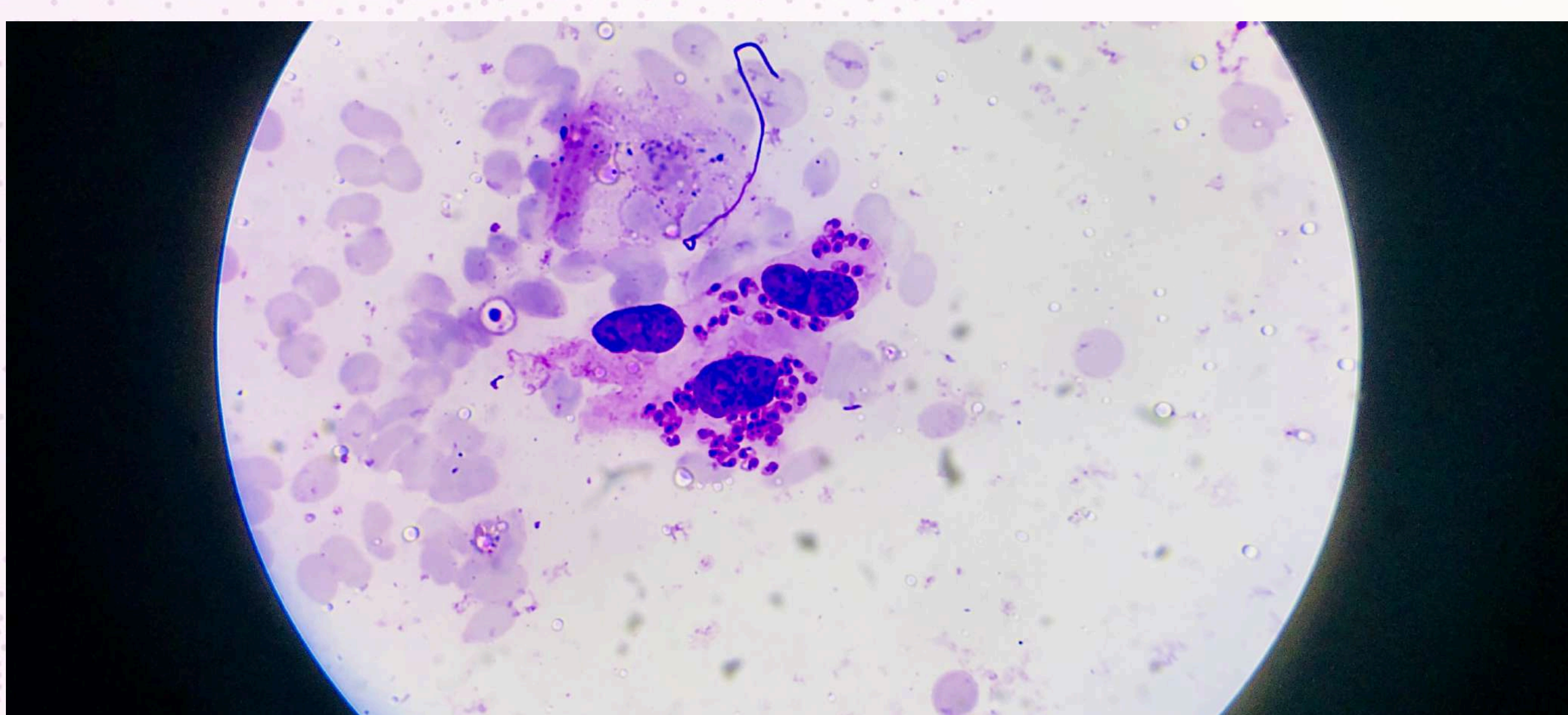
Scanning electron microscopic image of "wela" jackfruit seed flour starch granule

Y.T. Senaweera
Kotalawela Defense University



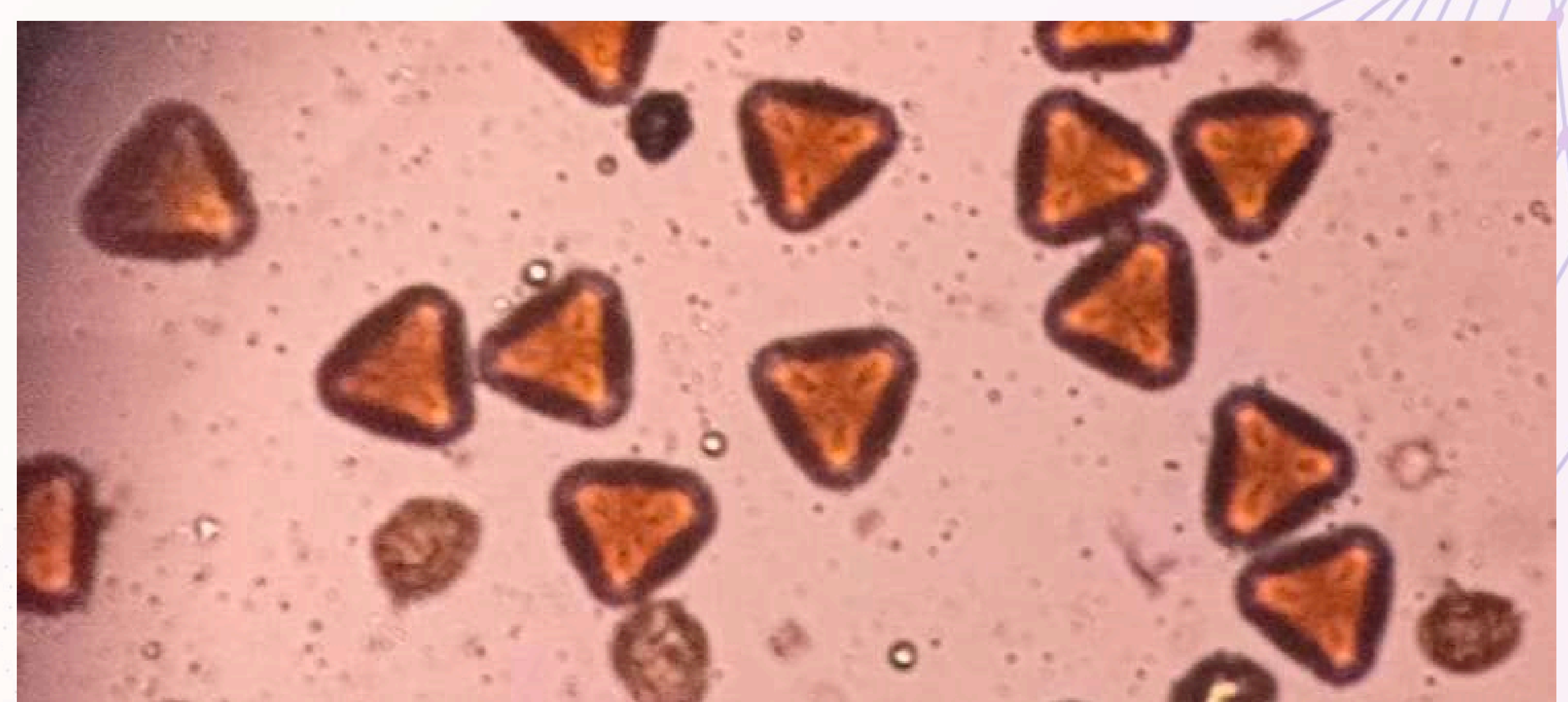
Nostoc azollae under x100 magnification

J.V. Arulnesan
Business Management School



A microscopic view of a biological sample

S.M.J.C. Bandara
Rajarata University of Sri Lanka



Bauhinia purpurea pollen grains

M.A.H.I.M. Perera
Wayamba University of Sri Lanka

BITSOC EVENTS

BIOTECHNOLOGY DAY 2024



Biotechnology Day 2024, organized by the Biotechnology Society of Wayamba University of Sri Lanka, was successfully held on 15th October 2024, at the FAPM, WUSL, Makandura premises. The keynote speaker for the event was Dr Thushara Perera, CEO of Sri Lanka Institute of Nanotechnology (SLINTEC), who spoke on the Commercialization of Biotechnology-related products: Bench to Market.

The Biotech Workshop, powered by Avon Pharmo Chem (Pvt) Ltd. led by Mr Dilip K. Fernando, Chief Executive Officer of the company focused on primer designing for precision PCR, micropipette handling, advanced culture techniques, and bio-entrepreneurship with live demonstrations of modern biotechnological tools. The Biotechnology Day also featured with BitSoc Lens Exhibition, showcasing a collection of microscopic photographs that relate to different fields of biotechnology. Additionally, the BitSoc Hackathon final phase presented a competition focused on biotechnology innovation, divided into two categories: university and school participants. Additionally, a special program aired on Jaya TV Arunodaya, featuring discussions on Biotechnology Day 2024, the BitSoc Hackathon, and the BitSoc LENS Exhibition.

The Biotechnology Day 2024 brought together students, professionals, and enthusiasts in the fields of biotechnology and agriculture to explore the latest developments, share knowledge, and showcase innovations in biotechnology.



SCHOLARSHIPS

Mrs Aruni Rathnayake, a graduate (2015/2016 batch) from the Department of Biotechnology, received a fully funded scholarship for a Master of Science degree at Guizhou University, China.



Mrs G.P.G. Isuri Thakshila, a graduate (2015/2016) from the Department of Biotechnology, received the 2024 CAS-ANSO Scholarship for Young Talents for a Master of Science degree at the University of Chinese Academy of Sciences.



BEST PRESENTERS

Ms L.T. Wijesinghe Arachchige received the Best Presenter Award (Panel I) at the Biotechnology Presentation Sessions of the 22nd Agricultural Research Symposium (AGRES), FAPM, WUSL, held on 4th October 2024. The title of her research was "Exploration of Blast Resistant Genes and their Allelic Determinant in Sri Lankan Rice Varieties using their Domain Structures for Utilization in Breeding".



Ms K. P. J. C. Dharmawansa received the Best Presenter Award (Panel II) at the Biotechnology Presentation Sessions of the 22nd Agricultural Research Symposium (AGRES), FAPM, WUSL, held on 4th October 2024. The title of her research was "Development of *In Vitro* Propagation Protocol for *Echinocactus grusonii*".



Ms A.D.N.M. Wijendrasinghe received the Best Presenter Award (Panel I) at the Biotechnology Presentation Sessions of the 18th In-Plant Training Symposium, FAPM, WUSL, which was held on 8th of October 2024.



Mr J.M.L. Kavinda received the Best Presenter Award (Panel II) at the Biotechnology Presentation Sessions of the 18th In-Plant Training Symposium, FAPM, WUSL, which was held on 8th of October 2024.



LAUNCHING OF BIOTECHNOLOGY INDUSTRIAL TRAINING ABSTRACT BOOKLET- VOLUME 4

Launching of the Biotechnology Industrial Training- 2024 Executive Summaries (BIT- 2024) of 40 students took place during the closing ceremony of the Biotechnology Presentation Sessions at the 18th In-Plant Training Symposium, FAPM, WUSL which was held on 8th October 2024. Dr Mewan Kooragoda, In-Plant Training Coordinator-2024 and Editor-In-Chief of the BIT-2024 remarkably handed over the printed booklet to Dr Priyanwada Warakagoda, Head/ Department of Biotechnology, FAPM, WUSL. Senior Prof. Nisha Kottearachchi was cordially invited for the web launching of the booklet with the assistance of Dr Kooragoda.



ADVANCED CERTIFICATE COURSE IN PLANT TISSUE CULTURE- 2nd INTAKE

The Advanced Certificate in Plant Tissue Culture (ACPTC) course was launched as the 1st short course offered by the Department in 2023 with the objectives of providing basic and applied training in plant tissue culture for entrepreneurs, and instructors in schools and technical colleges and to generate technically trained human resources for tissue culture industries island-wide. The inauguration ceremony of the 2nd intake was held on 8th June 2024 in online mode with the participation of Prof. Jagath Edirisinghe, Dean, FAPM, WUSL as the Chief Guest. The 25 students enrolled in the 2nd batch received their certificates of achievements from Prof. Jagath Edirisinghe, Dean, FAPM, at the certificate awarding ceremony held on 05th October 2024 at the Auditorium, FAPM, WUSL.

RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

Ms P.A.C.S.I. Pitumpe (2017/2018 batch), a temporary demonstrator of the Department of Biotechnology, has presented her research findings under the topic of "Investigating Starch Degradation Efficiency and Key Attributes of Soil Bacteria from Makandura (NWP) Area" at the 1st International Research Conference on Chemical and Process Engineering (ChemEIcon 2024) which was held on 27th June 2024. Her work received the 'Best Extended Abstract' award in the Environmental Biotechnology and Waste Treatment session. The research was conducted under the supervision of Prof. D.P.S.T.G. Attanayaka, Prof. B.L.W.K. Balasooriya, and Ms R.T.B. Arachchi.



Ms E. P. L. M Ediriweera, a graduate (2017/2018 batch) from the Department of Biotechnology, has presented her research findings under the topic of "The Starch Degrading Enzyme Activity of Soil Microbial Community Isolated from Makandura, (NWP) Sri Lanka" at the International Symposium on Agriculture and Environment (ISAE) 2024 organized by the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ruhuna, Sri Lanka, which was held on 10th of May 2024. The research was conducted under the supervision of Prof. D.P.S.T.G. Attanayaka.

Ms P.A.C.S.I. Pitumpe and Ms E. P. L. M Ediriweera presented their research findings under the topic of "Isolation, Characterization and Determination of Starch Degrading Activity of Bacteria from Soil Sample from Makandura (NWP) Sri Lanka" at the 4th International Conference on Frontiers in Molecular Life Sciences (ICFMLS 2024) organized by the Institute of Biochemistry, Molecular Biology and Biotechnology (IBMBB), which was held on 26th and 27th September 2024. The research was conducted under the supervision of Prof. D.P.S.T.G. Attanayaka, Prof. B.L.W.K. Balasooriya, and Ms R.T.B. Arachchi.



Ms R.M.D. Rathnayake, (2017/2018 batch) a temporary demonstrator of the Department of Biotechnology, has presented her research findings under the topic of "Determination of Microalgal Diversity in Three Selected Coastal Locations of Sri Lanka with Varying Degrees of Water Pollution" at the International Symposium on Agriculture and Environment (ISAE) 2024 organized by the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ruhuna, Sri Lanka, which was held on 10th of May 2024. The research was conducted under the supervision of Prof. B.L.W.K. Balasooriya.

Ms T.H.H. Nimasha, a graduate (2017/2018 batch) from the Department of Biotechnology presented her research findings under the topic "Comparative Analysis of NAC67 salinity Responsive Transcription Factor in Finger millet (*Eleusine coracana*) and Rice (*Oryza sativa*) under in silico approach" at the 3rd International Conference on Innovation and Emerging Technologies 2023 (ICIET 2023) Organized by the faculty of Technology, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka, which was held on November 23rd and 24th. The research was conducted under the supervision of Dr D.R. Gimhani and Dr D.S. Liyanage



RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

Ms R.P.D.M. Rajapaksha (2017/2018 batch), a temporary demonstrator from the Department of Biotechnology, presented her research findings under the topic of "Analysis of Phytochemicals and 5-Lipoxygenase Inhibition Properties of Essential Oil Extracted from *Achroynchia pedunculata*(L.) Miq. (Ankenda) Leaves" at the International Conference on Frontiers in Chemical Technology organized by the Institute of Chemistry Ceylon which was held on 22nd June 2024. The research was conducted under the supervision of Dr K.M. Mewan and Dr G.D. Liyanaarachchi.



Also, she published two other researches titled "Does Vasomotor symptoms elevate the risk of depression at menopause? A systematic review" and "Systematic Review on Prevalence and associated risk factors of common perimenopausal gynecological disorders" at the conference of 23rd Annual Academic Sessions- MENOSOC on 3rd of July 2024. These research studies were conducted under the supervision of Dr. S.U. Sendanayake.



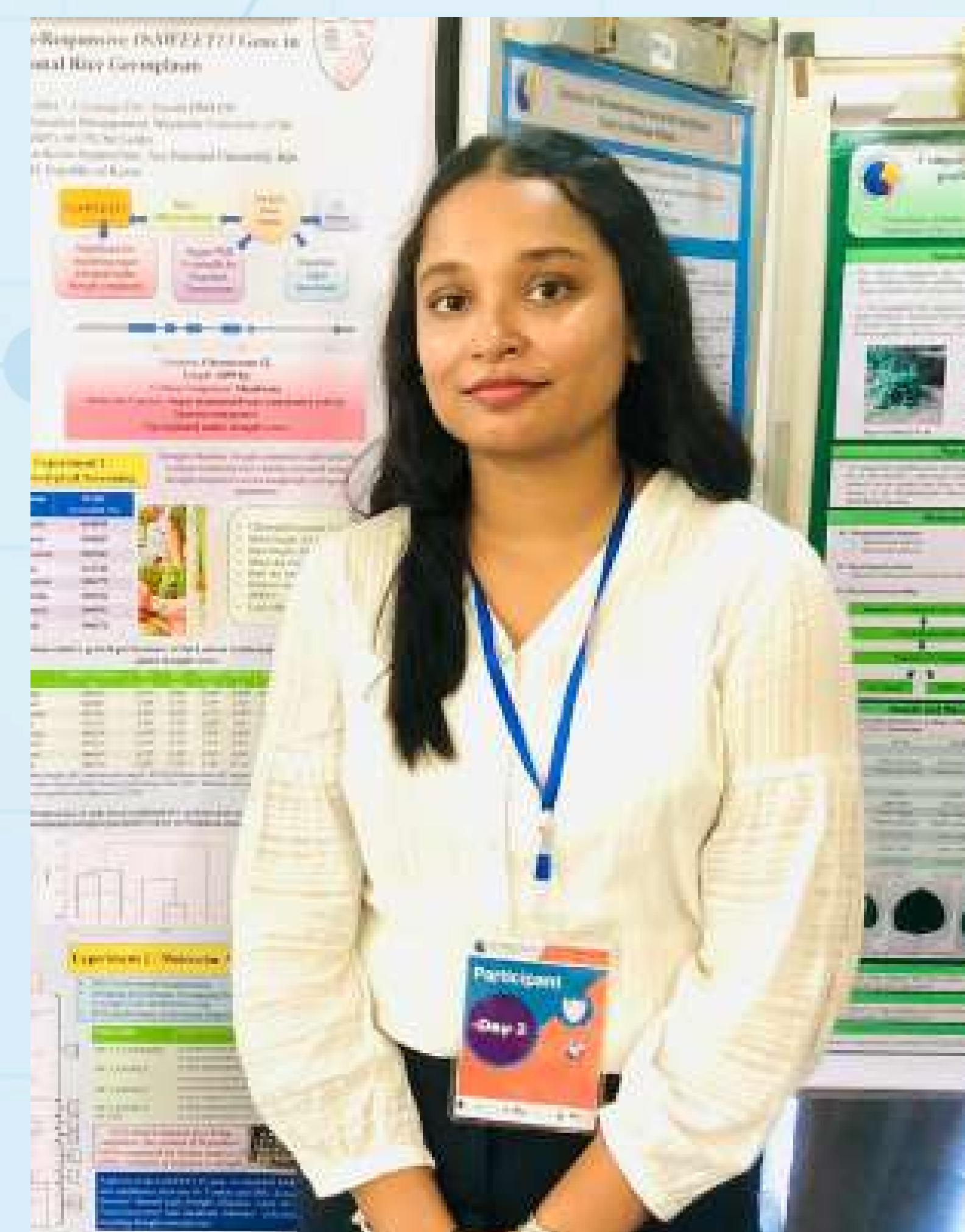
Mr Akeel Shahan, who recently completed his specialization at the Department of Biotechnology, has presented his research findings under the topic of "Designing Novel Genetic Logic Gate Circuit to Identify and Effectively Degrade Microplastic Types Polyethylene Terephthalate, Polyethylene, and Polystyrene," at the 1st International Conference on University-Industry Collaborations for Sustainable Development 2024. This conference was held on 17th of March 2024 and focused on sustainable solutions through industry-academic partnerships.

Additionally, Mr Shahan participated in the 3-Minute Thesis Presentation organized by the National Institute of Fundamental Studies (NIFS) on 13th of June 2024, where he succinctly presented his innovative research to an audience of multidisciplinary scholars and industry leaders.

Mr J.M.L. Kavinda participated in the Three Minute Thesis (3MT) competition organized by the Young Scientist Association of the National Institute of Fundamental Studies. He presented his thesis on "Perchlorate-Reducing Bacteria Isolated from Ussangoda, Sri Lanka: Candidates for Bioremediation on Mars," showcasing his research on potential solutions for extraterrestrial bioremediation.



Ms A.D.N.M. Wijendrasinghe, who recently completed her specialization at the Department of Biotechnology, has presented her research findings under the topic of "Allelic Variation Analysis of the Drought-Responsive OsSWEET13 Gene in Selected Sri Lankan Traditional Rice Germplasm" at the 4th International Conference on Frontiers in Molecular Life Sciences (ICFMLS 2024) organized by the Institute of Biochemistry, Molecular Biology and Biotechnology (IBMBB), which was held on 26th - 27th September 2024. The research was conducted under the supervision of Dr D.R. Gimhani.

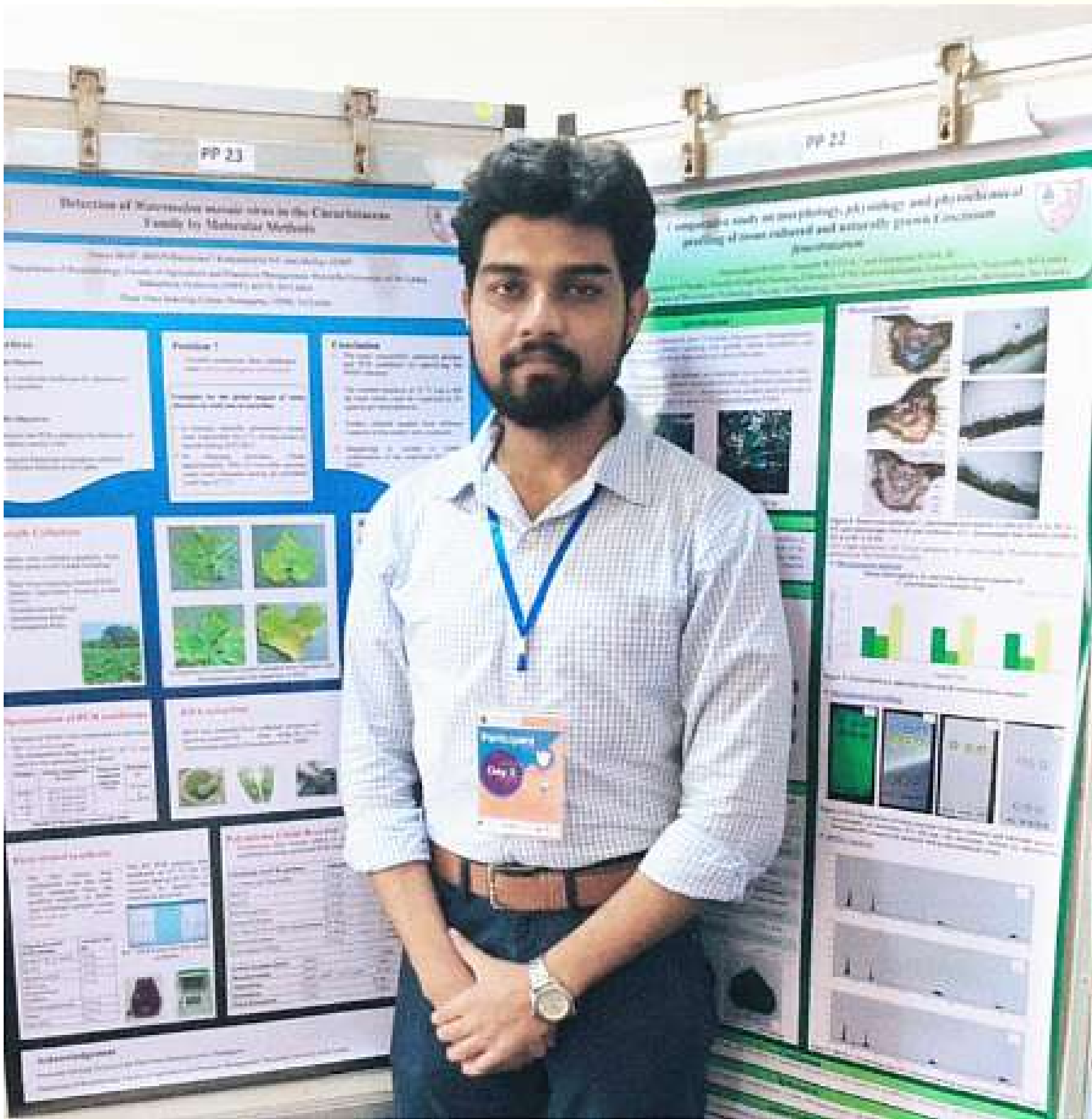


RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS



Ms I.P.T.N. Gunasingha, who recently completed her specialization at the Department of Biotechnology, has presented her research findings under the topic of "Optimization of Nutrient Mixture to Develop a Nano-based Slow Releasing Fertilizer for Paddy (*Oryza sativa*) by Directing Nano Encapsulation" at the 5th international conference of Agricultural science, AgInsight 2024 organized by the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka, which was held on 11th September 2024. The research was conducted under the supervision of Mr M.J.M.S. Kurera, Dr K.M. Mewan, Dr R.D.A.A. Rajapaksha and Ms B.S.S. Fernando.

Ms A.M. Kariyawasam, who recently completed her specialization at the Department of Biotechnology, has presented her research findings under the topic of "Exploring Allelic Diversity of the Salinity Responsive OsSWEET15 Gene in Selected Traditional Sri Lankan Rice Varieties" at the 4th International Conference on Frontiers in Molecular Life Sciences 2024 organized by the Institute of Biochemistry, Molecular Biology and Biotechnology, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka, which was held on 26th - 27th of September 2024. The research was conducted under the supervision of Dr D. R. Gimhani.



Mr. H.A.B. Perera, who recently completed his specialization at the Department of Biotechnology, has presented his research findings under the topic of "Detection of Watermelon Mosaic Virus in the Cucurbitaceae Family by Molecular Methods" at the 4th International Conference on Frontiers In Molecular Life Sciences 2024 organized by the Institute of Biochemistry, Molecular Biology and Biotechnology, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka, which was held on 26th - 27th of September 2024. The research was conducted under the supervision of Senior Prof. N. S. Kottarachchi.

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

Mr Y.G.S.S. Gunathunga received the 1st Place in the Best Research Content/Photograph competition at the 22nd Agricultural Research Symposium (AGRES) 2024, Wayamba University of Sri Lanka.



OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

Mr M. Akeel Shahan, who recently completed his specialization at the Department of Biotechnology, has been recognized as the Most Efficient Problem-Solving CEO 2024 (Sri Lanka) by the Global CEO Excellence Awards 2024, a prestigious honor presented by CEO Monthly Magazine in the UK.

Akeel is the co-founder of SCI Labs, a startup focused on sustainable innovations, where numerous biotechnology undergraduates, including Ms Nethmini Wijendrasinghe, Ms Sachini Sooryapperuma, Ms Dulani Nimaya, Ms Wimansani, and Ms Chatuni, along with Ms Iresha Perera (co-founder) from the Department of Agribusiness Management, contribute to impactful projects.

His accomplishments also include the Emerging Innovator of 2023 award from the Creative Pool Youth Organization, 3rd place at the University Industrial Engagement Camp organized by the Fountain Project and co-funded by the European Union, and runner-up in the Sustainable Climate Action Challenge 2023, organized by Dilmah Conservation and the European Union, for developing MiswaLanka- a 100% degradable toothbrush with bristles made from *Salvadora persica* roots, in collaboration with Ms Ushani Ranasingha.



Additionally, Team Infinite Innovators, consisting of Mr Akeel Sahan and Ms Nethmini Wijendrasinghe from the Department of Biotechnology, were invited to SLT Mobitel's Engineer Head Office for discussions on future business expansion following their success with the product FinePay. This recognition highlights the innovation behind FinePay and the potential for future business ventures.



Mr J.M.L. Kavinda, Mr Pathum Pathirana, and Ms P.M. Kumarasiri from the Department of Biotechnology successfully completed the second phase of a Climate Action Project as part of the SSCCA Program. Organized by the Student Society for Climate Change Awareness and funded by the U.S. Department of State, the project brought together students across South Asia to address climate change. Their innovative "Live Fence" initiative demonstrates practical, sustainable efforts to combat climate impacts.

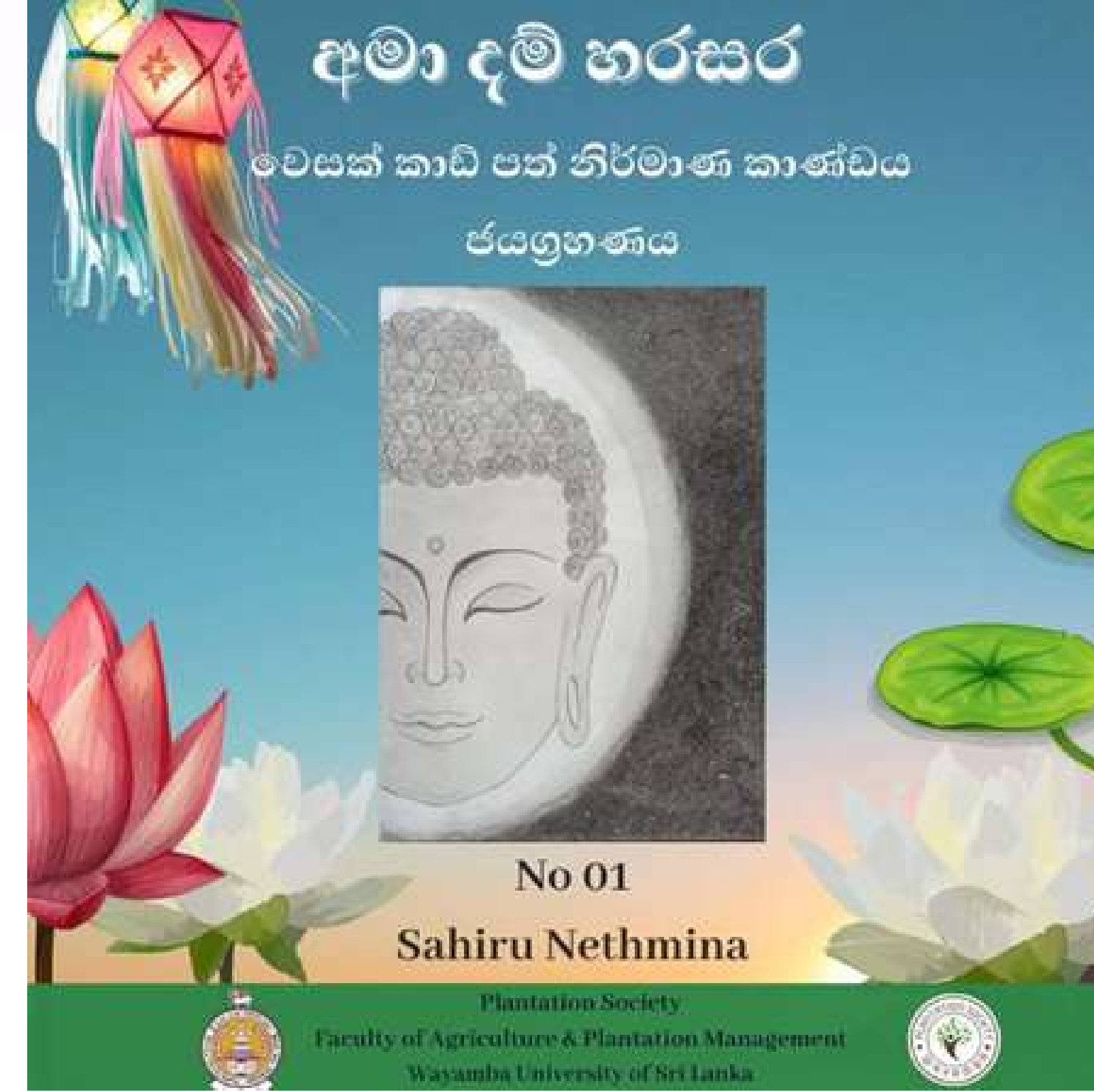


OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

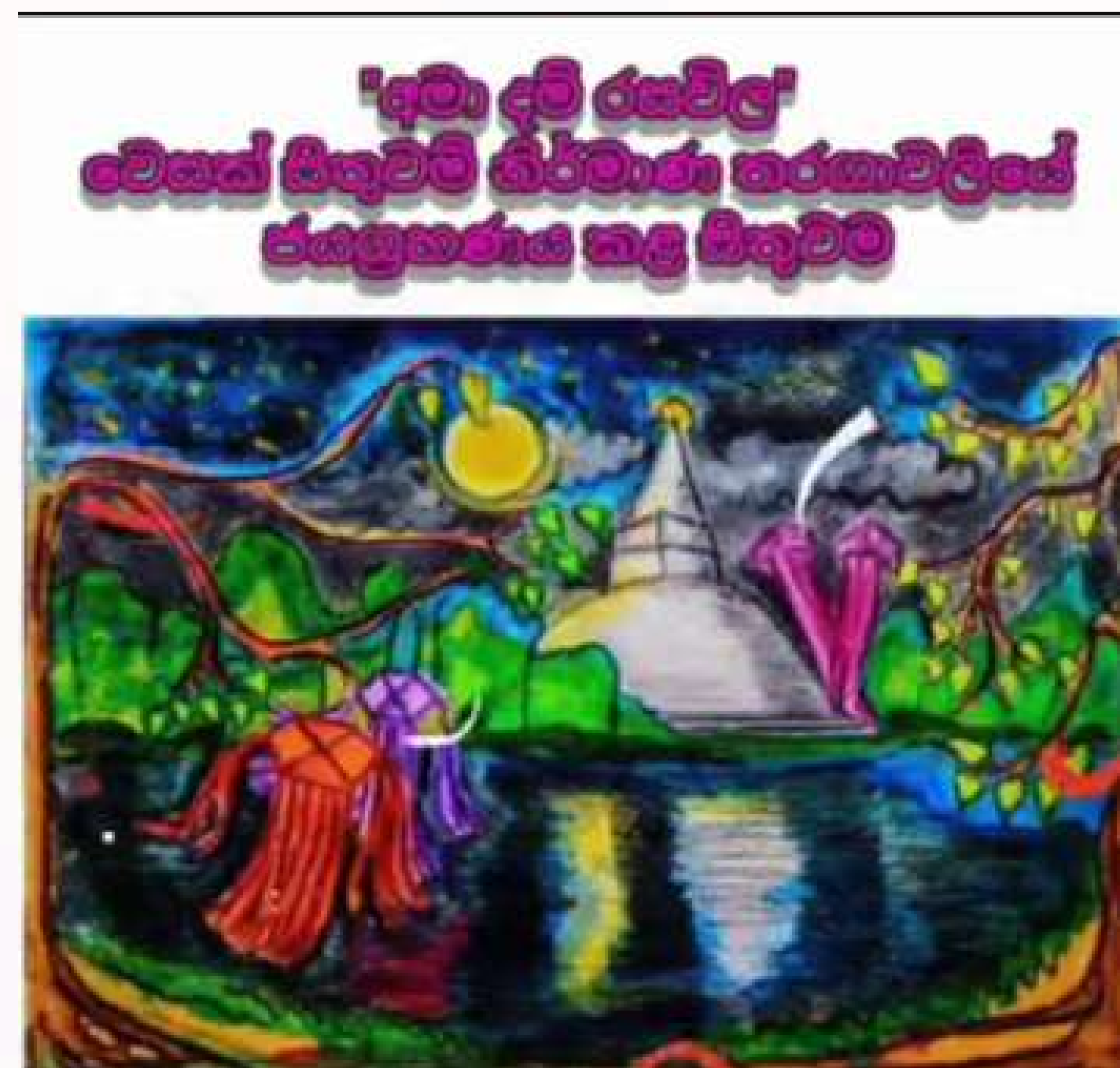
Mr J.M.L. Kavinda who recently completed his specialization at the Department of Biotechnology, was awarded the "Innovator of the Year" at the New Generation Asia Awards organized by Women for Management.



Mr O.S.N.D. Olaboduwa, a 4th year Biotechnology specialization student, won 1st place in the Vesak Card Paintings category at the Ama Dam Harasara Competition, organized by the Plantation Society, FAPM, WUSL.



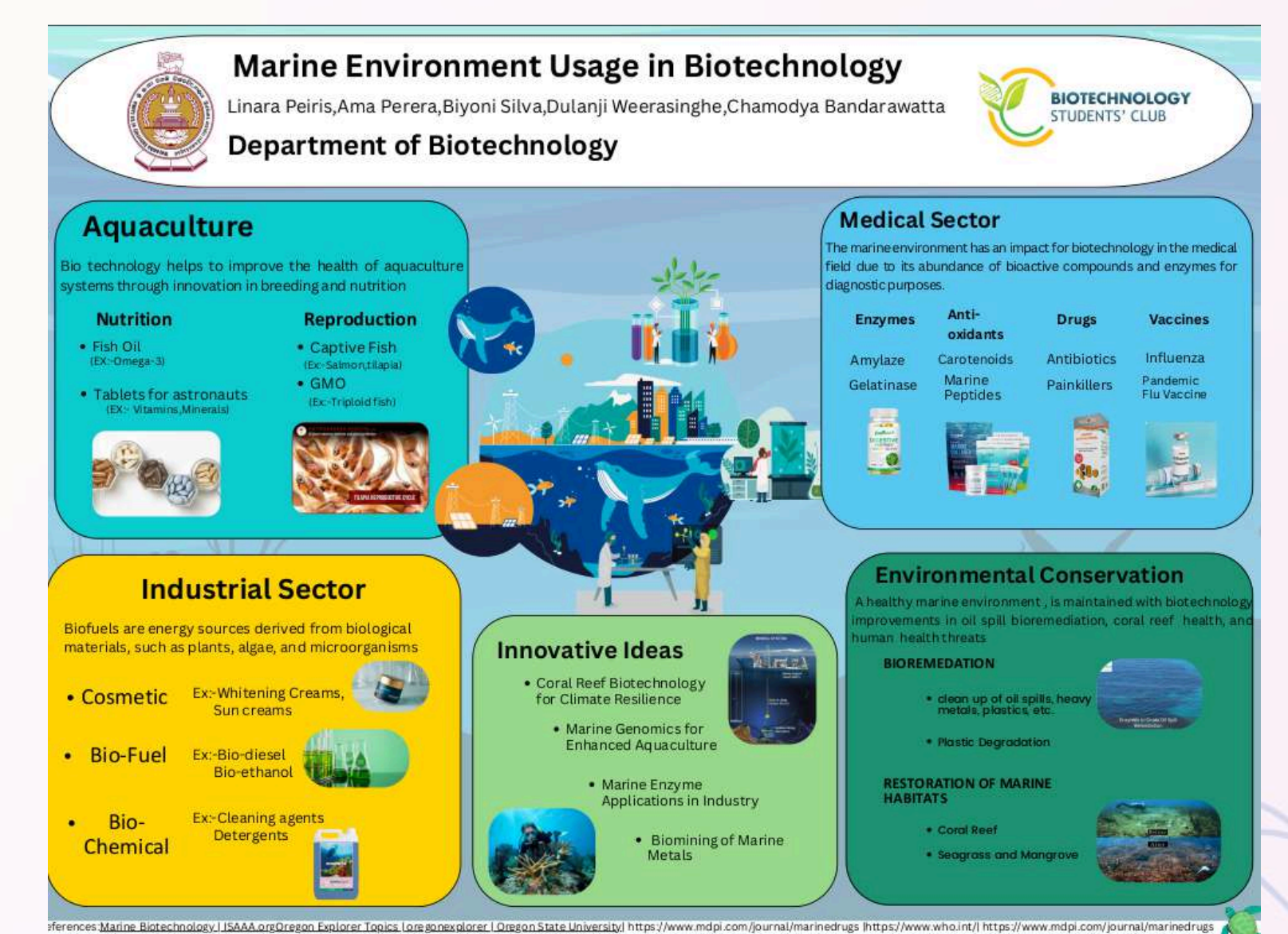
Ms S.N.W.S. Yapa, a 4th year Biotechnology student, secured 1st place in the Non-Digital section of the ECOTOON Inter-University Cartoon Competition organized by the Zero Plastic Community of CINEC Campus. She also advanced to the semi-finals of the "Magical Flora" flower photo contest, hosted by the Zero Plastic Community of the Open University of Sri Lanka. Furthermore, she won 1st place in both the Most Popular Art and Most Decorative Art categories at the Ama Dam Rasavila Vesak Painting Competition, organized by the Buddhist Society, FAPM, WUSL.



Mr S.M.D.B. Ariyaratne, Mr K.R.T.M. Jayathilaka, and Ms I.A.T.D.S. Karunasinghe, 4th year Biotechnology specialization students from the Department of Biotechnology, along with Ms D.D.Y.T. Dangalla from the Department of Agribusiness Management, secured 2nd runners-up in Stage One of the Varsity Battles Capital Market Quiz Competition. This event was organized by the Securities Exchange Commission of Sri Lanka, and their performance earned them a place in the finals.



Ms T.M.T.L. Peiris, Ms S.M.D.S. Weerasinghe, Ms K.B.H. Silva, Ms A.N. Perera and Ms B.V.C.D. Bandarawatta, the runner-up team of MarineARTE '24, represented the Biotechnology Society of Wayamba University of Sri Lanka and secured the Inter-University Poster Competition on marine biotechnology held at SLIIT.



SPORTS

Mr W.M.K.T. Wickramasinghe, a 4th year Biotechnology specialization student, captained the university athletics team to a runners-up position in the championship. He also won silver and bronze medals in the 100 m and 200 m individual events at the Flying Shoe Inter-University Triangular Athletics Championship.



Mr D.A.R.C.N. Jayathissa, a 4th year Biotechnology specialization student, participated in the Inter-University Rugby Tournament 2024 and achieved university colours for excellence in performance. He also participated in the Inter-University Kabaddi Championship and was selected as a quarter-finalist ranking among the top eight universities in Sri Lanka.





A Parasite's emergence from the remains of its host - a testament to nature's complexity

BITSOC LENS MICROSCOPIC PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

RUNNERS UP

S.F. Sabra - Business Management School

Licomophora ehrenbergii

A marine micro-algae observed through digital light microscope

BITSOC LENS MICROSCOPIC PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

2nd RUNNERS UP

R.M.D. Rathnayake - Wayamba University of Sri Lanka



BITSOC NEWS

Editor –

Dr P.S. Warakagoda, Senior Lecturer, Department of Biotechnology, FAPM

Editorial Assistance –

Ms P.A.C.S.I. Pitumpe, Temporary Demonstrator, Department of Biotechnology, FAPM

BitSoc Students' News Committee –

Mr P.G.S.C. Ariyaratne, Mr T.M. Jayathilake, Mr K.M. Bandara, Ms T.D. Fernando

