

Ruchira Somaweera *BSc (Hons), PhD*

Research Scientist – Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), Australia

Adjunct Research Fellow – University of Western Australia

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Summary

- Highly motivated and realistically-ambitious to utilise over 15 years of experience in reptile-related research and research-led practices to improve reptile conservation and human-reptile relationships.
- Strategic and structured in work; focused and effective in personality.
- Proven ability to complete tasks with precision, flair and attention to detail leading to real on-ground implications.
- Equally experienced and capable ‘talking science’ and ‘talking about science’, with over 7 years of experience working with international media organisations.
- Adaptable to the challenge of new situations and environments, particularly under adverse conditions.
- Able to work as part of a team or independently to ensure goals are achieved and new standards set.

1 Education

- 2016-2019 **Postdoctoral Fellowship** | CSIRO, Australia
Title: Impact of weeds on freshwater crocodiles and riparian ecosystems at Fitzroy River, Western Australia.
- 2008-2012 **PhD** | The University of Sydney, Australia
Title: Ecology and conservation of Australian freshwater crocodiles (*Crocodylus johnstoni*) at Lake Argyle, Western Australia.
- 2002-2006 **BSc (Hons)** [First Class in Zoology] | **University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka**
Title: Communal egg-laying of the endemic Kandyan day-gecko (*Cnemaspis kandiana*) in rock caves at Gannoruwa forest reserve, Sri Lanka.

2 Employment history

- 2019 **Experimental Scientist: CSIRO**
Study design, field data collection, modelling, data analysis, reporting and preparation of manuscripts in a National Environmental Science Program (NESP)-funded project in the Kimberley.
- 2016 **Unit Facilitator for COMS1000 : Curtin University**
Develop and conduct classroom activities to improve the capacity of Year 1 students to effectively communicate scientific information and arguments to a range of audiences via multiple medias.
- 2016 **Teaching Assistant for SCOM1101/SCIE1103 : University of Western Australia**
Conduct classroom learning activities to improve the capacity of Year 1 students to effectively and credibly communicate scientific information to a wide range of audiences.
- 2015 **Teaching Assistant for BIOL 2261 and BIOL1131 : University of Western Australia**
Preparing and conducting field and lab-based classes for Conservation Biology (Year 2) and Plant and Animal Biology (Year 3) courses at the Schools of Plant and Animal Biology.
- 2012 – 2015 **Senior Zoologist: Biologic Environmental Survey**
Preparation and review of reports for the mining industry; data collection and analysis; management and undertaking of field surveys; client liaison; liaison with technical specialists and government stakeholders; development of survey proposals; assistance with the development of marketing material; research and development.
- 2011 – 2013 **Project Officer: WA Department of Parks and Wildlife**
Training park rangers to initiate and continue a monitoring programme for the freshwater crocodiles at selected national parks in the Kimberley region.

- 2012 **Workshop Coordinator : University of Peradeniya**
Organising, coordinating and conducting the workshop 'Herpetological Conservation and Biology' for postgraduate students at the Postgraduate Institute of Science.
- 2011 **Teaching Assistant for BIOL3010 : The University of Sydney**
Preparation of course material; training and supervision of Year 3 students at a field course on field sampling, experimental design and data interpretation.
- 2007 – 2008 **Lecturer : University of Peradeniya**
Writing and delivering lectures; planning field trips and lab-based practicals and conducting examinations for multiple Year 2-4 units in vertebrate biology, taxonomy and field sampling at Department of Zoology.
- 2006 **Teaching Assistant : University of Peradeniya**
Organising and conducting laboratory and field-based practical classes, preparing teaching material, and marking practical examinations for multiple Year 1-3 units in ethology, animal form and function, ecology, tropical ecosystems, comparative anatomy and animal physiology.

3 Publications

Refereed publications

1. **Somaweera, R.**, Udyawer, V., Guinea, M., Ceccarelli, D., Clarke, R., Glover, M., Hourston, M., Keesing, J., Rasmussen, A.R., Sanders, K., Shine, R., Thomson, D., and Webber, B. (submitted). Ashmore Reef and the case of the disappearing sea snakes. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences*.
2. **Somaweera, R.**, Nifong, J., Rosenblatt, A., Brien, M.L., Combrink, X., Elsey, R.M., Grigg, G., Magnusson, W.E., Mazzotti, F.J., Percy, A., Platt, S.G., Shirley, M.H., Tellez, M., van der Ploeg, J., Webb, G., Whitaker, R., and Webber, B.L. 2020. The ecological importance of crocodylians: towards evidence-based justification for their conservation. *Biological Reviews* doi.org/10.1111/brv.12594.
3. Barr, J., **Somaweera, R.**, Godfrey, S.S., Gardner, M.G. and Bateman, P.W. 2020. When one tail isn't enough: Abnormal caudal regeneration in non-serpent Squamates and Rhynchocephalia and their potential ecological impacts. *Biological Review* doi: 10.1111/brv.12625.
4. **Somaweera, R.**, Yeoh, P.B., Jucker, T., Clarke, R.H. and Webber, B.L. 2020. Historical context, current status and management priorities for introduced Asian house geckos at Ashmore Reef, north-western Australia. *Bioinvasion Records* 9(2):408-420.
5. Cao, R., **Somaweera, R.**, Brittain, K., FitzSimmons, N.N., Georges, A. and Gongora, J. 2020 Genetic structure and diversity of Australian freshwater crocodiles (*Crocodylus johnstoni*) from the Kimberley, Western Australia. *Conservation Genetics* doi.org/10.1007/s10592-020-01259-5.
6. Udyawer, V., **Somaweera, R.**, Nitschke, C., d'Anastasi, B., Sanders, K., Webber, B., Hourston, M. and Heupel, M. 2020 Prioritising search effort to locate previously unknown populations of endangered marine reptiles. *Global Ecology and Conservation* doi.org/10.1016/j.gecco.2020.e01013.
7. **Somaweera, R.**, Brien, M.L., Sonneman, T., Didham, R.K., and Webber, B.L. 2019. Absence of evidence is not evidence of absence: knowledge shortfalls threaten the effective conservation of freshwater crocodiles. *Global Ecology and Conservation* 20: e00773.
8. Shine, R. and **Somaweera, R.** 2019. Last lizard standing: the enigmatic persistence of the Komodo dragon. *Global Ecology and Conservation* 18(2019):e00624.
9. Pyron, A.R. and **Somaweera, R.** 2019. Further notes on the Sri Lankan uropeltid snakes *Rhinophis saffragamus* (Kelaart, 1853) and *Uropeltis ruhunae* Deraniyagala, 1954. *Zootaxa* 4560(3):592-600.
10. Nordberg, E.J., Macdonald, S., Hoskins, A., **Somaweera, R.** and Perry, J. 2019. Can plastic save turtles?: Measuring the impacts of predators and the effectiveness of plastic meshing on marine turtle nests along the western Cape York Peninsula, Australia. *Biological Conservation* doi.org/10.1016/j.biocon.2019.108201.
11. Tingley, R. and 52 co-authors including **Somaweera, R.** 2019. Geographic and taxonomic patterns of extinction risk in Australian squamates. *Biological Conservation* doi.org/10.1016/j.biocon.2019.108203.
12. Barr, J., Boisvert, C., **Somaweera, R.**, Trinajstić, K., and Bateman, P. 2019. Re-regeneration to reduce negative effects associated with tail loss in lizards. *Scientific Reports* 9:18717.
13. **Somaweera, R.**, Platt, S., Brien, M., Manolis, C. and Webber, B. 2018. Direct and indirect interactions with vegetation shape crocodylian life history traits at multiple scales. *Freshwater Biology* DOI:10.1111/fwb.13.
14. Barr, J., **Somaweera, R.**, Godfrey, S.S., and Bateman, P.W. 2018. Increased tail length in the King's skink, *Egernia kingii* (Reptilia: Scincidae): an anti-predation tactic for juveniles? *Biological Journal of the Linnean Society* DOI: 10.1093/biolinnean/bly196.
15. Udyawer, V. and 27 authors including **Somaweera, R.** 2018. Future directions in marine snake research and management. *Frontiers in Marine Science* DOI: 10.3389/fmars.2018.00399.

16. Gabadage, D., Surasinghe, T., De Silva, A., **Somaweera, R.**, Madawala, M. and Karunaratna, S. 2018. Zoological and ecological study of the Sri Lankan Keelback (*Balanophis ceylonensis*): with implications for conservation of a poorly known, endemic snake from Sri Lanka. *Vertebrate Zoology* 68(3):225-236.
17. Morgan, D.L., **Somaweera, R.**, Gleiss, A.C., Beatty, S.J. and Whitty, J.M. 2017. An upstream migration fought with danger: freshwater sawfish fending off sharks and crocodiles. *Ecology* DOI: 10.1002/ecy.1737.
18. Karunaratna, S., Surasinghe, T., Madawala, M., **Somaweera, R.**, Amarasinghe, T. 2017. Ecological and behavioral traits of the Sri Lanka water monitor (*Varanus salvator*) in an urban landscape of Western Province in Sri Lanka. *Marine and Freshwater Research*. 68(12): 2242-2252.
19. Pyron, R. A., Ganesh, S., Sayyed, A., Sharma, V., Wallach, V. and **Somaweera, R.** 2016. A catalogue and systematic overview of the shield-tailed snakes (Serpentes: Uropeltidae). *Zoosystema* 38(4):453-506.
20. Auliya, M. and 36 co-authors including **Somaweera, R.** 2016. Trade in live reptiles and its impact on reptile diversity: the European pet market as a case study. *Biological Conservation* 204:103-119
21. Whiting, M.J., Noble, D.W.A. and **Somaweera, R.** 2015. Sexual dimorphism in conspicuousness and ornamentation in enigmatic leaf-nosed lizard *Ceratophora tennentii* from Sri Lanka. *Biological Journal of the Linnean Society*. 116:614-625.
22. **Somaweera, R.**, Pantoja, D.L. and Deepak, V. 2015. Forgotten records of *Chrysopelea taprobanica* Smith, 1943 (Squamata: Colubridae) from India. *Zootaxa*. 3947:597-600.
23. **Somaweera, R.**, Meegaskumbura, M., Bowatte, G. and Wijayathilaka, N. 2015. Conservation in a changing landscape: habitat occupancy of the Critically Endangered Tennent's Leaf-nosed Lizard (*Ceratophora tennentii*) in Sri Lanka. *Journal of Natural History*. 49(31-32):1961-1985.
24. van Rooijen, J., Vogel, G. and **Somaweera, R.** 2015. A revision of the taxonomy of the Australopapuan species of the colubrid genus *Dendrelaphis* (Serpentes: Colubridae). *Salamandra*. 51:33-56.
25. **Somaweera, R.**, Shine, R., Webb, J., Dempster, T. and Letnic, M. 2013. Why does vulnerability to toxic invasive cane toads vary among populations of Australian freshwater crocodiles? *Animal Conservation* 16:86-96.
26. **Somaweera, R.**, Brien, M. and Shine, R. 2013. The role of predation in shaping the natural history of crocodylians: a review. *Herpetological Monographs* 27:23-51.
27. Pyron, R.A., Kandambi, D. Hendry, C.R., Pushpamal, V., Burbrink, F.T., and **Somaweera, R.** 2013. Genus-level molecular phylogeny of snakes reveals the origins of species richness in the Sri Lanka biodiversity hotspot. *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution* 66:969-978.
28. Böhm, M. and 103 co-authors including **Somaweera, R.** 2013. The conservation status of the world's reptiles. *Biological Conservation* 157:372-385.
29. **Somaweera, R.** and Shine, R. 2013. Nest-site selection by crocodiles at a rocky site in the Australian tropics: making the best of a bad lot. *Austral Ecology* 38:313-325.
30. **Somaweera, R.** and Shine, R. 2012. Australian freshwater crocodiles (*Crocodylus johnstoni*) transport their hatchlings to the water. *Journal of Herpetology* 46:407-411.
31. **Somaweera, R.**, Wijethilake, N. and Bowatte, G. 2012. Does the invasive shrub *Ulex europaeus* benefit an endemic Sri Lankan lizard? *Herpetological Conservation and Biology* 7:219-226.
32. **Somaweera, R.**, Webb, J. and Shine, R. 2011. It's a dog-eat-croc world: dingo predation on the nests of freshwater crocodiles in tropical Australia. *Ecological Research* 26:957-967.
33. **Somaweera, R.**, Crossland, M.R. and Shine, R. 2011. Assessing the potential impact of invasive cane toads on a commercial freshwater fishery in tropical Australia. *Wildlife Research* 38:380-385.
34. **Somaweera, R.** and Shine, R. 2011. The (non) impact of invasive cane toads on freshwater crocodiles at Lake Argyle in tropical Australia. *Animal Conservation*. 15:152-163.
35. **Somaweera, R.**, Webb, J. and Shine, R. 2011. Determinants of habitat selection by hatchling crocodiles (*Crocodylus johnstoni*). *PLoS ONE* 6(12):e28533. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0028533.
36. **Somaweera, R.**, Webb, J., Brown, G.P. and Shine, R. 2011. Hatchling Australian freshwater crocodiles rapidly learn to avoid toxic invasive cane toads. *Behavior* 148:501-517.
37. **Somaweera, R.**, Somaweera, N. and Shine, R. 2010. Frogs under friendly fire: how well can Australians distinguish native frogs from invasive cane toads? *Biological Conservation* 143:1477-1484.
38. **Somaweera, R.** 2009. Observations on the reproductive ecology of the Kandyan Day Gecko *Cnemaspis kandiana* in Gannoruwa, Sri Lanka. *Journal of the National Science Foundation of Sri Lanka* 37:13-22.
39. Smith, E.N., Manamendra-Arachchi, K. and **Somaweera, R.** 2008. A new species of coralsnake of the genus *Calliophis* (Squamata: Elapidae) from the Central Province of Sri Lanka. *Zootaxa* 1847:19-33.

Refereed publications (Short communications)

1. Muga, K., Robillard, A.J. and **Somaweera, R.** 2020. *Eretmochelys imbricata* (Hawksbill Sea Turtle): Predation. *Herpetological Review* 51(2):313.
2. Sieniawski, K. and **Somaweera, R.** 2019. *Varanus salvator* (Asian water monitor): deep diving. *Herpetological Review* 50(2):382-383.
3. **Somaweera, R.**, Lilley, R., Putra, A., Ganz, P., Govendan, P.N., McKay, J.L. and Milenkaya, O. 2018. Recent additions to the herpetofauna diversity of the island of Bali, Indonesia. *Sauria* 40(1): 75-86.
4. **Somaweera, R.**, Rhind, D., Reynolds, S., Eisenberg, C., Sonneman, T. and Woods, D. 2018. Observations of mammalian feeding by Australian freshwater crocodiles (*Crocodylus johnstoni*) in the Kimberley region of Western Australia. *Records of the West Australian Museum* 33(1): 103-107.
5. Barr, J., Somaweera, R. & Bateman, B. 2018. *Ctenotus fallens* (West coast ctenotus). Anomalous death through use of modelling clay for research. *Herpetological Review* 49(2): 327-328.
6. Sudasinghe, H. and **Somaweera, R.** 2015. *Calotes versicolor* (Oriental Garden Lizard). Diet. *Herpetological Review* 46:625-629.
7. de Silva, A. and **Somaweera, R.** 2015. The use of human babies as bait in sport hunting during the British colonial period? *Journal of Threatened Taxa*. 7(1):6805-6809.
8. **Somaweera, R.**, Woods, D. and Sonneman, T. 2014. A note on the Australian freshwater crocodiles inhabiting Tunnel Creek cave. *Records of the West Australian Museum* 29:24-29.
9. Pizzatto, L., **Somaweera, R.**, Kelehear, C. and Brown, G.P. 2012. *Rhinella marina* (*Bufo marinus*: Cane Toad). Prey. *Herpetological Review* 43:469-471.
10. **Somaweera, R.** and Das, I. 2008. *Lepidodactylus lugubris* (Mourning Gecko) in Malaysia: Sarawak. *Herpetological Review* 39:368.
11. **Somaweera, R.**, Ukuwela, K. and Alagoda, T. 2006. A note on specimens of *Gerarda prevostiana* (Coubriidae: Serpentes) collected from Sri Lanka. *Ceylon Journal of Science (Bio. Sci.)* 35:91-93.
12. **Somaweera, R.** 2006. Defensive posture in *Kaloula taprobanica* Parker (Microhylidae: Amphibia). *Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society* 103:108-109.

Books

1. **Somaweera, R.** 2020. A Naturalist's Guide to the Reptiles & Amphibians of Bali (2nd Ed). John Beaufoy Publishing, UK: 176 pp.
2. Somaweera, R., Azis, A., Resa, E., Panggur, M., Saverinus, D. and Muga, K. 2018. Amphibians and Reptiles of Komodo National Park. Aaranya Wildlife Odysseys and Komodo National Park Authority: 31 pp.
3. **Somaweera, R.** 2017. A Naturalist's Guide to the Reptiles & Amphibians of Bali. John Beaufoy Publishing, UK: 176 pp.
4. Pizzatto, L. and **Somaweera, R.** 2013. Fogg Dam: How Scientists See Nature. University of Sydney, e-book http://sydney.edu.au/science/biology/shine/educational_resources/primary.shtml
5. **Somaweera, R.** and Somaweera, N. 2009 *Lizards of Sri Lanka: A colour guide with field keys*. Chaimaira publications, Germany: 304 pp.
6. **Somaweera, R.** 2006. *Sri Lankawe Sarpayin ('Snakes of Sri Lanka')*. Wildlife Heritage Trust of Sri Lanka: 297 pp.

Non-ISI listed publications

1. **Somaweera, R.** and Sanders, K. 2015. *Guide to the Sea Snakes of the Kimberley Coast of Western Australia*. Department of Parks and Wildlife, Perth.
2. Maryan, B., **Somaweera, R.**, Lloyd, R., Bunce, M. and O'Connell, M. 2013. Status of the Airlie Island Ctenotus, *Ctenotus angusticeps* (Lacertilia: Scincidae), with notes on its distribution, habitat and genetic variation. *West Australian Naturalist* 29:103-119.
3. **Somaweera, R.**, Webb, J. and Shine, R. 2013. Extreme monsoonal floods affect Australian freshwater crocodile hatchlings by degrading habitat quality. Pp 197-202 In *Proceedings of the 22nd working meeting of the IUCN-SSC Crocodile Specialist Group*. IUCN: Gland, Switzerland.
4. **Somaweera, R.** 2013. Book Review: Reptile Biodiversity- standard methods for inventory and monitoring. *Ceylon Journal of Science (Bio. Sc.)* 42:73-74.
5. **Somaweera, R.** 2011. A report of a probable unprovoked attack by an Australian freshwater crocodile at Lake Argyle in Western Australia. *Australian Zoologist* 35: 973-976.
6. **Somaweera, R.** and Somaweera, N. 2010. Serpents in Jars: the Snake Wine Industry in Vietnam. *Journal of Threatened Taxa* 2(11):1251-1260.

7. **Somaweera, R.** and Somaweera, N. 2009. An Overview of Sri Lankan Sea Snakes with an Annotated Checklist and a Field Key. *Taprobanica* 1:43-57.
8. Wickramasinghe, M. and **Somaweera, R.** 2008. Changes in the distribution ranges of the Sri Lankan *Hemidactylus* species. *Gekko* 5:44-60.
9. **Somaweera, R.** 2004. A bark gecko (*Hemidactylus leschenaultii*) preying on a wolf snake (*Lycodon striatus sinhaleyus*). *Gekko* 4(2):8-10.
10. **Somaweera, R.** 2004. The Sri Lankan Colubrid snakes. *Sri Lanka Naturalist* 6:32-46.
11. **Somaweera, R.**, Wijayamohan, S., Vandercone, R., Wijesundara, C. and Santiapillai, C. 2004. Discovery of crocodiles on Mannar island, Sri Lanka. *IUCN Crocodile specialist group newsletter* 23:10-11.
12. **Somaweera, R.**, Sarathchandra, K., Karunaratne, S. and Nuwansiri, C. 2004. A study on the avifauna and herpetofauna of Panama, Eastern Province, Sri Lanka. *Sri Lanka Naturalist* 6:1-9.
13. Wickramasinghe, M. and **Somaweera, R.** 2003. Distribution and current status of the endemic geckos of Sri Lanka. *Gekko* 3:2-13.
14. **Somaweera, R.** and Ukuwela, K. 2001. The amphibian fauna of Menikdena Archaeological Reserve and Arboretum, Sri Lanka. *Lyriocephalus* 4:110-115.

Consultancy reports

Since March 2012, I have produced over 35 consultancy reports to several mining clients including BHP Billiton Iron Ore Pty Ltd, FMG, RioTinto, Crystal Mining, Westralian Iron Pty Ltd, EPIR Alliance and Talison Lithium Australia Pty Ltd. A complete list of the reports can be provided upon request.

4 Conference presentations and invited talks

- Somaweera, R.** 2020. The world of reptiles (Invited online talk). National Geographic Classroom program. May 2020.
- Somaweera, R.** 2020. Using photographs for telling stories (Invited online talk). Cinnamon Nature Trail's Traveling Photographers series. June 2020.
- Somaweera, R.** 2019. Studying reptiles around the world: a personal journey (Invited talk). Wildlife and Nature Protection Society of Sri Lanka monthly lecture. Sep 2019, Colombo, Sri Lanka.
- Udyawer, V. and **Somaweera, R.** 2019. Saving the sea serpent: ways forward to better understand and conserve marine snakes (Oral). Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation. Sep 2019, Thuhiriya, Sri Lanka.
- Somaweera, R.**, Bentley, B., Mitchell, N.J., and Webber, B.L. 2019. Shady dealings threaten a formidable predator: weeds tip the balance in a cryptic trophic cascade (Speed talk). Species on the Move 2019. Jul 2019, Kruger National Park, South Africa.
- Somaweera, R.** 2019. Rock-paper-scissors: Cold-blooded style. National Geographic Explorers Festival (Speed talk). Jun 2019. Washington DC, USA.
- Somaweera, R.** and Webber, B.L. 2018. Seeing the forest for the crocs: the influence of vegetation on crocodylian ecology (Oral). Australian Society of Herpetologists. Dec 2018, Kindilan, Australia.
- Somaweera, R.**, Jucker, T., Mitchell, N.J. & Webber, B.L. 2018. Shading by weeds can modify nest temperatures in the freshwater crocodile (Poster). Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation. Jul 2018, Kuching, Malaysia.
- Somaweera, R.** & Webber, B.L. 2017. Rock-paper-scissors Kimberley style (Speed talk). Convergence 2017: CSIRO Postdoctoral Fellow Conference. Mar 2017, Melbourne, Australia.
- Somaweera, R.** 2016. Are we going to lose our freshies? (Invited talk). Aug 2016, Rangelands NRM, University of Notre Dame, Broome, Australia.
- Somaweera, R.** 2016. The scaly & the slimy: a review of the use of herpetofauna in wildlife tourism (Oral). Australian Wildlife Tourism Conference. Nov 2016, Adelaide, Australia.
- Somaweera, R.** 2015. 'Big data' for crocodiles in the Kimberley (Invited talk). Jun 2015, School of Animal Biology, University of Western Australia, Australia.
- Hendry, C., Parkinson, C., Lemmon, E., Lemmon, A., Guiher, T., **Somaweera, R.** and Pyron, R.A. 2015. A next-generation perspective on the phylogeny of vipers (Serpentes: Viperidae) (Oral). Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles. Aug 2015, Kansas, USA.
- Somaweera, R.** 2014. Gene to phenotype' in the environmental consultancy space (Invited talk). Mar 2014, Department of Environment and Agriculture, Curtin University, Australia.

- Somaweera, R.** 2014. Management implications of the impacts of invasive cane toads on populations of freshwater crocodiles in northern Australia (Oral). Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation. Jul 2014, Cairns, Australia.
- Somaweera, R.** 2014. Ecology and adaptability of freshwater crocodiles (Invited talk). Feb 2014, School of Arts and Sciences Fremantle, The University of Notre Dame Australia, Australia.
- Somaweera, R.** and de Silva, A. 2013. Using traditional knowledge to minimize human-crocodile conflict and conserve crocodiles in Sri Lanka (Oral). World Crocodile Conference. May 2013, Negambo, Sri Lanka.
- Somaweera, R.** and Shine, R. 2012. Changing climates, monsoonal floods and freshwater crocodiles (Speed talk). Southern Connection Congress. Jan 2013, Dunedin, New Zealand.
- Somaweera, R.** 2011. It's hard being a freshy: natural history of freshwater crocodiles at Lake Argyle in east Kimberley (Invited talk). NT Field Naturalists Club, Charles Darwin University, Australia.
- Somaweera, R.,** Webb, J. and Shine, R. 2011. Dingo predation on the nests of freshwater crocodiles in tropical Australia (Oral). Ecological Society of Australia. Nov 2011, Tasmania, Australia.
- Somaweera, R.,** Webb, J. and Shine, R. 2011. Mothers like no others: parental care in crocodylians (Oral). Student Conference on Conservation Sciences. Sep 2011, Bangalore, India.
- Somaweera, R.** and Shine, R. 2011. Parental care behaviour of freshwater crocodiles in tropical Australia (Oral). Australian Society for the Study of Animal Behaviour. Apr 2011, Adelaide, Australia.
- Somaweera, R.,** Webb, J. and Shine, R. 2010. Cane toads and Freshwater crocodiles in Lake Argyle (Invited talk). Mat 2010, Caring for the Kimberley Environmental Forum, Kununurra, Australia.
- Somaweera, R.** 2010. A tale of a toad and a croc: Cane toads and Freshwater crocodiles in Lake Argyle, Australia (Invited talk). Nov 2010, Department of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore, Singapore.
- Somaweera, R.,** Letnic, M. Webb, J. and Shine, R. Evolutionary impacts of invasive cane toads on Australian crocodiles (Oral). Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation. Jul 2010, Bali, Indonesia.
- Biswas, S. and **Somaweera, R.** 2009. Employing niche modelling to understand regional endemism: examples from South Asian herpetofauna (Oral). 3rd Conference on Geographic Information Systems at Smithsonian. January 2009, Washington DC, USA.
- Somaweera, R.** 2008. "Alien Vs Predator" – a case study of helping snakes by helping people around a tropical forest in Hantana, Sri Lanka (Oral). Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation. Apr 2008, Kuching, Borneo.
- Somaweera, R.** 2007. Climatic Change, Habitat Loss or mere Over-killing? What causes the extinction of Sri Lankan snakes? (Poster) Student Conference on Conservation Science. Mar 2007, Cambridge, UK.
- Somaweera, R.** and De Silva, M. 2006. Communal egg-laying of the endemic Kandyan day-gecko (*Cnemaspis kandiana*) in rock caves at Gannoruwa forest reserve, Sri Lanka (Oral). Peradeniya University Research Session. Nov 2006, Peradeniya, Sri Lanka.
- Somaweera, R.** and Wickramasinghe, M. 2006. Human influences on the dispersal of Hemidactylus geckos in Sri Lanka (Oral). 11th Biological Sciences Graduate Congress. Dec 2006, Bangkok, Thailand.
- Wickramasinghe, M. and **Somaweera, R.** 2006. Geckos on the move: how humans have influenced the distribution of *Hemidactylus* geckos in Sri Lanka (Oral). International Conference on Humid Tropical Ecosystems: Changes, Challenges and Opportunities. Dec 2006, Kandy, Sri Lanka.
- Somaweera, R.** and Ukuwela, K. 2001. A comparison of amphibian diversity in Kandyan home garden agro-ecosystems of central Sri Lanka (Oral). 4th World Congress in Herpetology. Dec 2001, Bentota, Sri Lanka.
- Bambaradeniya, C.N.B., Ekanayake, S.P., Fernando, R.H.S.S., **Somaweera, R.** and Perera, N. 2001. Biodiversity of the Bundala National Park and Ramsar wetland (Oral). 7th Annual Forestry and Environment Symposium. May 2001, Colombo, Sri Lanka.

5 Higher degree student supervision

- 2019 – 2020 Abhilasha Aiyer | Honours, University of Sydney
Using conditioned taste aversion to protect wild freshwater crocodiles (Crocodylus johnstoni) from Cane toad (Rhinella marina) poisoning
 (co-supervised with Dr Georgia Ward-Fear and Professor Richard Shine)
- 2019 – 2020 Glenn Maslen | Honours, University of Western Australia
Understanding and quantifying impacts of the invasive stinking passionflower on freshwater crocodiles at Lake Argyle
 (co-supervised with Dr Bruce Webber and Prof Raphael Didham)

- 2017 – 2020 James Barr | PhD, Curtin University.
A comparative investigation of the behavioural ecology of Kings Skinks (Egernia kingie) from sites with differing predation risks
(co-supervised with Drs Bill Bateman and Stephanie Godfrey)
- 2015 – 2016 Tess McLaren | MSc, University of Melbourne
Evolution of colour change in Asian agamid lizards
(co-supervised with Dr Devi Stuart-Fox)
- 2015 – 2016 James Barr | Honours, Murdoch University
Social interactions and networking among King Skinks at the Penguin Island
(co-supervised with Dr Stephanie Godfrey)
- 2011 – 2012 Francine James | Honours, University of Sydney
Implications of extreme flooding on nest site selection and oviposition of freshwater crocodiles in a lentic system
(co-supervised with Dr Mathew Crowther)

6 Professional memberships and contributions

- 2019 – 2020 Scientific committee, 2020 World Congress of Herpetology, New Zealand
- 2019 Organising and Scientific committee, 2019 ATBC Asia-Pacific Conference, Sri Lanka
- 2018 – 2019 Section Editor, Herpetological Review
- 2017 – Present Resource person, STEM Professionals in School program
- 2015 Member, Maritime Archaeology Association of Western Australia
- 2013 – 2015 Fellow, Linnean Society of London
- 2013 – Present Member, IUCN/SSC Viper Specialist Group
- 2013 Deputy Conference Director, World Crocodile Conference, Sri Lanka
- 2011 – Present Member, IUCN/SSC Boa and Python Specialist Group
- 2011 Member, Ecological Society of Australia
- 2009 Member, The Australasian Society for the Study of Animal Behaviour
- 2008 – Present Member, Australian Society of Herpetologists
- 2005 – Present Regional Vice Chairman/ Member, IUCN/SSC Crocodile Specialists' Group
- 2005 – Present Member, Conservation Breeding Specialist Group- South Asia Regional Network

7 Academic awards and appointments

- 2017 – 2019 Postdoctoral Research Fellow, CSIRO Land and Water
- 2017 – present Adjunct External Supervisor, Curtin University
- 2016 – present Adjunct Research Fellow, University of Western Australia
- 2014 – present Adjunct Lecturer, Murdoch University
- 2013 Visiting Scientist, CSIRO Land and Water
- 2013 Adjunct Research Fellow, University of Western Australia.
- 2013 Fellowship of the Linnean Society of London.
- 2011 Finalist at 2011 Postgraduate Excellence Award, The University of Sydney.
- 2010 Best oral presentation, Student Conference in Conservation Sciences, India.
- 2008 Shine Top-Up Award, School of Biologic Sciences, University of Sydney.
- 2007 Endeavour International Postgraduate Research Scholarship (EIPRS), Australian Government.
- 2007 International Postgraduate Award (IPA), University of Sydney.
- 2007 Australian Development Award, Australian Government.
- 2007 Endeavour Postgraduate Award, Dept. of Education, Science & Training, Australia.
- 2007 Miriam Rothschild Bursary, Cambridge University, UK.
- 2007 Prof Felix Amerasinghe Memorial Gold Medal for Excellence in Zoology, University of Peradeniya.
- 2007 University Award for Academic Excellence, University of Peradeniya.

8 Professional development

Certifications	Certificate II in maritime operations (Coxswain II Near Coastal) Australian Remote Pilot Licence (RePL) Marine radio operators certificate Senior first aid certification 4-WD off-road driving certification PADI advance scuba diving certification BHP Billiton supervisor certification Animal Competency and Experience (ACE) Registration, Murdoch University
Training	Scieincetelling Bootcamp, National Geographic Society Nature Masterclass, Nature Research Powerful Presentations, SO'C Consulting and CSIRO Productive Collaborations, Professional Facilitators International Customer Conversations, MoFox and CSIRO Influencing Skills, John Robinson Consultancies Project Management Fundamentals, QVC Solutions and CSIRO

9 Engagements of research end users

2019	Snake awareness campaign with Nat Geo Wild and National Geographic Learning targeting Asia-Pacific region.
2017 – Present	Sea snake handling and safety training for Shark Bay prawn fishery industry provided in collaboration with WA Department of Fisheries.
2017 – Present	Primary school science development engagements at Woodlands PS and Sutherland Dianella PS via the STEM Professionals in School program.
2013 – 2018	Crocodile management and survey training for Bunuba Rangers of western Kimberley region, provided in-collaboration with Dept. of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions.
2013 – 2019	Knowledge sharing and crocodile survey training for Miriuwung-Gajerrong Rangers of eastern Kimberley region provided in-collaboration with Dept. of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions.
2012 – Present	Ad-hoc engagements with national and international media agencies, including Animal Planet, Discovery, French National Geographic, BBC, Dutch TV, Channel 9 Australia, and Nat Geo Wild, to highlight research findings.
2012 – 2015	Engagement with private mining sector as a senior environmental consultant conducting biodiversity surveys in the Pilbara region.

10 Referees

Academic

Professor Rick Shine

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Australia.
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Professional

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