

Dr. Wu Kuang Soh

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Wuu Kuang completed his PhD at Trinity College Dublin on the systematics of the genus *Syzygium*. He also holds a primary degree in biology and a master degree in ecology from the University of Putra Malaysia. His research interest is broad and multidisciplinary, encompassing areas in plant systematics, ecology and ecophysiology with a major focus on global change. He was appointed plant taxonomist in KEP herbarium, Malaysia and then as a researcher at UNEP-WCMC, United Kingdom. After completing his PhD, he worked as a postdoctoral researcher at University College Dublin. During this time, he investigated the ecological and physiological responses of vegetation to climate change throughout the Mesozoic and Anthropocene. Wuu Kuang has undertaken taxonomic revisions of several plant groups such as rose-apple (*Syzygium*) in Indochina, wild cinnamon (*Cinnamomum*) in Borneo and boxwood family (Buxaceae) in Thailand. He also has a keen interest in digitization and utilization of herbarium collections for research.

Research interest

- Understanding trend in plant responses to climate change at the macro-level across a decadal or geological time scale.
- Historical botanical collections at the DBN herbarium
- Herbarium-based study on plant phenological responses to climate change
- Revision of Myrtaceae for Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam
- Ecology and conservation of limestone flora in Southeast Asia
- Taxonomy, evolution and ecology of *Monophyllaea* (Gesneriaceae)

Qualifications

- 2011** PhD, Trinity College Dublin, Dublin, Ireland. 'The Systematics of *Syzygium* Gaertn. (Myrtaceae) in Indochina (Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam)'.
- 2002** MSc (Ecology), University of Putra Malaysia, Malaysia. 'Vegetation and Selected Environmental Factors of Bukit Charas Limestone'.
- 2000** BSc (Honours) Biology, University of Putra Malaysia, Malaysia.

Selected Publications

Soh W.K., Yiotis C., Murray M., Parnell A., Wright I.J., Spicer R.A., Lawson T., Caballero R., McElwain J.C. Rising CO₂ drives divergence in water use efficiency of evergreen and deciduous plants. 2019. Science Advances, 5 (12), eaax7906. DOI: 10.1126/sciadv.aax7906 (Impact factor: 11.23)

Murray A., **Soh W.K.**, Yiotis C., Spicer R.A., Lawson T., McElwain J.C. 2019. Consistent relationship between field-measured stomatal conductance and theoretical maximum stomatal conductance in C3 woody angiosperms in four major biomes. International Journal of Plant Sciences 181 (1): 000-000. DOI: 10.1086/706260 (Impact factor: 1.42)

Murray M.*, **Soh W.K.***, Yiotis C., Batke S., Parnell A., Spicer R.A., Lawson T., Caballero R., Wright I.J., Purcell C., McElwain J.C. 2019. Convergence in maximum stomatal conductance of C3 woody angiosperms in natural ecosystems across bioclimatic zones. Frontiers in Plant Science 10: 558 . DOI:10.3389/fpls.2019.00558 (*first co-author, impact factor: 4.30)

Parnell J., **Soh W.K.** 2018. Nomenclature and typification of various Myrtaceae occurring in Southeast Asia. Edinburgh Journal of Botany. 27 March 2018. DOI: 10.1017/S0960428618000057 (Impact factor: 0.26)

Purcell C., Batke S.P., Yiotis C., Caballero R., **Soh W.K.**, Murray M., McElwain J.C. 2018. Increasing stomatal conductance in response to rising atmospheric CO₂. Annals of Botany, 21: 1137-1149. DOI: 10.1093/aob/mcx208 (Impact factor: 4.04)

Soh W.K., Wright I.J., Bacon K.L., Lenz T.I., Steinthorsdottir M., Parnell A.C., McElwain J.C. 2017. Palaeo leaf economics reveal a shift in ecosystem function associated with the end-Triassic mass extinction event. Nature Plants 3, 17104. DOI: 10.1038/nplants.2017.104 (Impact factor: 11.47)

Soh W.K., Parnell J. 2015. A revision of *Syzygium* (Myrtaceae) in Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam. Adansonia, 37: 179-275 (Impact factor: 0.38)

Soh W. K., von Sternburg M., Hodkinson T. R., Parnell J. 2014. *Buxus sirindhorniana* sp. nov. (Buxaceae), a bicarpellate species from Thailand. Nordic Journal of Botany, 32: 452-458. DOI:10.1111/njb.00314 (Impact factor: 0.85)

Soh W.K., Parnell J. 2012. Three new species of *Syzygium* Gaertner (Myrtaceae) from Indochina. Kew Bulletin, 66: 1-8. DOI: 10.1007/s12225-011-9305-9 (Impact factor: 0.58)

Soh, W.K., Parnell J. 2011. Comparative leaf anatomy and phylogeny of *Syzygium* Gaertn. Plant Systematics and Evolution, 297: 1-32. DOI: 10.1007/s00606-011-0495-2 (Impact factor: 1.45)

Soh W.K. 2011. A taxonomic revision of *Cinnamomum* (Lauraceae) in Borneo. Blumea, 56: 241-264. DOI: 10.3767/000651911X615168 (Impact factor: 0.78)

Career

- 2020 – Botanist, National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, Dublin, Ireland.
- 2017–2019 Research Associate, Botany Department, Trinity College Dublin, Ireland.
- 2012–2017 Postdoctoral Research Fellow, School of Biology and Environmental Science, University College Dublin, Ireland.
- 2006–2010 PhD Candidate, Botany Department, Trinity College Dublin, Ireland.
- 2005–2006 Researcher (Chevening visiting scholar), UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre, United Kingdom.
- 2002–2005 Plant taxonomist, KEP herbarium, Forest Research Institute of Malaysia, Malaysia.

Awards and grants

- 2017 University College Dublin, Seed Funding, dissemination award
- 2016 Sibbald Trust, Royal Botanical Garden Edinburgh
- 2014 University College Dublin Seed Funding, Career Development Award
- 2014 Royal Irish Academy Mobility Grant
- 2010 Trinity Trust Travel Grant Award
- 2009 EDIT Traineeship Taxonomy Grants
- 2008 SYNTHESYS (European Union-funded Integrated Infrastructure Initiative Grant) – UK
- 2007 SYNTHESYS (European Union-funded Integrated Infrastructure Initiative Grant) – France
- 2006 Trinity College Dublin Postgraduate Research Studentship
- 2005 Chevening Scholarship Programme (British government)