

# Summer Dreams

Veranja Liyanapathirana

Monsoon rains  
Have come and gone  
Quintessential  
Remnants of summer  
Rambutans and durians  
Discarded peels  
Bustles with activity  
Lives of other kinds  
Wriggling and swimming  
Summer dreams  
Of warm humid nights  
Fanning away the creatures of nature  
That annoying bustle of wings  
Of lives that emerged from the discards  
Creatures of nature  
That fly in search of meals  
Meals of red  
Within the meal  
Enveloped  
In a protective sheath  
Lies a being  
Is it alive or is it not?  
We argue in the summer's heat  
How to define life?  
This being is a villain  
A villain of a kind  
Minute yet mighty  
Astute and elusive  
Adapting and evolving

## Acknowledgment

Thanks to Samantha Abeywickrama for the inspiration.  
This poem was inspired by an online conversation with Dr. Abeywickrama and the dengue epidemic in Sri Lanka in 2017.  
Dr. Liyanapathirana is a senior lecturer at the Department of Microbiology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka. Her research interests are antimicrobial resistance and pneumococcal epidemiology.

Address for correspondence: Veranja Liyanapathirana, Department of Microbiology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Peradeniya, Peradeniya, Sri Lanka; email: [veranjacl@pdn.ac.lk](mailto:veranjacl@pdn.ac.lk)

---

Author affiliation: University of Peradeniya, Peradeniya, Sri Lanka

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.3201/eid2310.171117>