

CURRICULUM VITAE

PERSONAL DETAILS

Name	Yantree Devi Sankar-Thomas
Date of birth	06 April 1961
Nationality:	Guyanese
Marital status	married, two children
Profession	Biologist
University Education	Ph.D. University of Hamburg, 2009 M.Sc. University of Hamburg, 2003
Professional Affiliations	German <i>in vitro</i> horticulture research group (ADIVK) Society of Friends, the Botanical Garden Hamburg e.V.



AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- Over 16 years of experiences in plant cell and tissue culture
- Establishment of *in vitro* protocols on micropropagation for a broad variety of ornamental and medicinal plants
- *In vitro* cultivation of plants that are difficult to propagation by conventional methods
- Plant Conservation - *ex situ* collections and *in vitro* maintenance of plant & cell materials
- Considerable knowledge on greenhouse acclimatization and field operations associated with plant propagation and tissue culture practices.
- Media modification, preparation, sterilization and laboratory protocols
- Laboratory experiments covering also the basic techniques in molecular biology

KEY SKILLS AND COMPETENCIES

- Professional competence in plant tissue culture through collaboration with the botanical Garden in Hamburg on the micropropagation of rare and endangered species via somatic embryogenesis and other breeding methods.
- Professional skills on conventional plant propagation, horticulture, grafting methods, and the selection of quality plants for sales gained through training courses in plant nurseries
- Good knowledge in field work and greenhouse plant culture operation.

Teaching Experience

- Research assistant in courses and seminars for plant identification and taxonomy Presentations and training courses in plant *in vitro* culture for graduate students and apprentice at the botanical garden.

Personal Abilities

- Interpersonal skill and the ability to work independently, to manage a team and collaborate with other researchers.
- Ability to solve complex problems and an excellent communication and presentation skills.
- Abilities in supervising and training of students or employees, to assist in other projects and perform other duties when required.
- Team player, self motivated and conscious of a high degree of responsibility.
- Experience in analysing natural compound, and laboratory work including record keeping.
- At various international locations and in different working groups I could demonstrate my teamwork ability and quick apprehension to new tasks.

ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS

2012 to date	Specialist for Plant cell and Tissue culture in the Research & Development at a pharmaceutical Company. The implementation and coordination of scientific experiments and cell culture media optimisation as well the plant sourcing according the Nagoya Protocol and within the EU legislation
<u>2010 - 2013</u>	Research Scientist at the Botanical Garden, Biocenter Klein Flottbek, University of Hamburg. Responsible for the <i>in vitro</i> collections, maintenance and conservation of rare and endangered plant species. The development of protocols for <i>in vitro</i> propagation, acclimatisation of tissue-cultured plants. Presentations, courses on tissue culture for graduates and apprentices
<u>2004 - 2009</u>	PhD thesis " <i>In vitro</i> culture of <i>Camptotheca acuminata</i> (Decne) in Temporary Immersion System (TIS): Growth, development and production of secondary metabolites", University of Hamburg
<u>2002 - 2003</u>	Master thesis "Phenolische Substanzen und Polyphenoloxidasen in Blättern von <i>Bixa orellana</i> L., dem Orleanstrauch".
<u>1996 - 2002</u>	Studies in Biology at the University of Hamburg
<u>2001, 2003</u>	Research assistant in plant identification and taxonomy, seminars, presentations and courses supervision in plant <i>in vitro</i> culture. University of Hamburg
<u>1998 - 2000</u>	Research assistant at the Senckenbergische Naturfor. Gesell., Hamburg. Responsible for the separation and determination of fish eggs and fry from samples of the North Sea
<u>1996 - 1998</u>	Research assistant at the Biologische Anstalt Helgoland (BAH), Hamburg. Responsible for literature recherche and assort of data on Cnidarians, separating planktonic and other organisms from samples of the North Sea for determination.

Schools / Apprenticeship

1979 - 81	Diploma School for Textile-designing (Suriname, SA)
1981 - 1982	Hauptschulabschluss at VHS eveningclasses, Pinneberg
1992 – 1995	Abitur at evening classes at the Hamburger Abendgymnasium vor dem Holstentor
Languages	English (mother tongue), German (C2), Indonesian (reasonable), Dutch and French (fair)
Residences	Germany (1992 to date), Indonesia (87 - 92), Nigeria (83 - 85), Suriname (78 - 81)
Computer Skills	MS- Office, PowerPoint, Sigma Plot, Smart Draw, Photoshop
Avocation	Orchid and plant culture, gardening, travelling, plant propagation for commercial companies
References	Available on request.
Personal	Driving license: yes

Publications:

Gilbert Gorr, David Alexander Ullisch, **Yantree Devi Sankar-Thomas**, Thomas SELGE, Thomas Leibold, Harald Heckenmüller (2016) Production of ingenol, ingenol esters and/or tiglic-3-one derivatives by euphorbiaceae plant cell suspension cultures WO 2016150860 A1

Ullisch D.A., **Sankar-Thomas Y.D.**, Wilke S., Leibold T., Pump M., Heckenmüller H., Schütte K. and Gorr G., 2016 Plant cell culture as a highly controllable tool for the sustainable production of anticancer products The second conference of the International Society for Plant Molecular Farming

Gorr, G., Heckenmüller, H., Wilke, J.S., Ullisch, D.A., and **Sankar-Thomas, Y. D** (2015) Production of thapsigargin by thapsia cell suspension culture WO 2015082978 A1

Sankar-Thomas, Y.D. and R. Lieberei, 2011. Camptothecin accumulation in liquid culture medium, on differentiated cell and plant organs of *Camptotheca acuminata* (Decne) grown in different culture systems. Plant, Cell, Tissue & Organ Culture, Article No. s 11240-011-9942-6, 10p

Sankar-Thomas, Y.D., 2009. *In vitro* culture of *Camptotheca acuminata* (Decaisne) in Temporary Immersion System (TIS): Growth, development and production of secondary metabolites. <http://www.sub.uni-hamburg.de/opus/volltexte/2010/4419/>

Sankar-Thomas, Y.D., 2009. Sproßvermehrung von *Camptotheca acuminata* in Temporary Immersion System. ADIVK Aktuell 13.JG., Nummer 2, Dezember 2009, p. 21-31. Herausgeber: Arbeitskreis Deutsche In Vitro Kulturen e.V. (ADIVK)

Sankar-Thomas, Y.D., K Saare-Surminski; R. Lieberei, 2008. Plant regeneration via somatic embryogenesis of *Camptotheca acuminata* in Temporary Immersion System (TIS). Plant, Cell, Tissue & Organ Culture, p. 163-173

Sankar-Thomas, Y.D., 2003. Phenolische Substanzen und Polyphenoloxidasen in Blättern von *Bixa orellana* L., dem Orleanstrauch. 75 pp, Diplomarbeit (Univ. Hamburg)

Sankar-Thomas, Y.D. and R. Thomas, Somatic Embryogenesis, Organogenesis and Shoot Multiplication in Temporary Immersion System (TIS) of *Amorphophallus titanum* (Becc.) Becc. Ex Arcangeli (in prep.)

Presentations:

Y.D. Sankar-Thomas 2016. Vermehrung und Erhaltung seltener und gefährdeter Pflanzenarten durch die Gewebekultur. Rotary Club

Sankar-Thomas, Y.D., 2011. Schwierig zu kultivierende Pflanzen (Tissue Culture for Challenging Plants) im Temporary Immersion System (TIS). University Hamburg

Sankar-Thomas, Y.D., 2009. Sproßvermehrung von *Camptotheca acuminata* in Temporary Immersion System. Temporary Immersion System -working group meeting- of ADIVK. IPK in Gatersleben, 24-25.09.09

Sankar-Thomas, Y.D.; R. Thomas. Since 2009 two times a year *In vitro* presentation at "Tropentag" inside the show green houses at -Planten un Blumen-, Hamburg.

Sankar-Thomas, Y.D., 2006. *In Vitro* propagation of *Camptotheca acuminata* Decne., Nyssaceae via somatic embryogenesis. Temporary Immersion System -working group meeting- of ADIVK. Wismar, 29.11.06

Sankar-Thomas, Y.D., 2005. *In Vitro* propagation of *Camptotheca acuminata* Decne., Nyssaceae via somatic embryogenesis. Presentation at the Turkeyen Campus (University of Guyana) and WIU (West Indies University, Trinidad)

K. Saare-Surminski; **Sankar-Thomas, Y.D.**, 2003. Presentation of Temporary Immersion System. 'Biotechnica' International Trade Fare for Biotechnology. Hannover 07.- 09.10.2003