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 Samanthika 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

Author affiliation: University of Peradeniya, Peradeniya, Sri Lanka

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