ALESSANDRO PUCA

PHD STUDENT

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EDUCATION

2019 - 2021
UNIVERSITY OF FLORENCE

- 110/110 MS in Agricultural Sciences and Technologies, Plant medicine curriculum (LM-69)

2014 - 2018
UNIVERSITY OF FLORENCE

- BS in Forest and Environmental Science (L–25)

SKILLS

- Data analysis - R, RStudio
- Public Relations, especially in an international context
- Teamwork
- Time and Project Management
- Problem solving
- Public speaking for expert and non-expert audiences

LANGUAGES

- English (Fluent)
- French (Fluent)
- Italian (Mother tongue)
- German (Basic)
- Chinese (Basic)

PROFILE

I am a third-year PhD student working on the Esca Complex of Diseases of Grapevine, with a specific focus on fungal degradation of wood. Thanks to my university career, driven by a great passion, I have become knowledgeable about plant diseases in both the agricultural and forestry sectors. I specialize in mycology, specifically in fungal degradation. Competent, and tidy, in the lab and strong in data analysis.

WORK EXPERIENCE

University of Florence (DAGRI, Florence) - University of Haute-Alsace (LVBE, Colmar)
2021 - PRESENT (12/2024)

Cotutelle PhD student

- PhD thesis title: “Wood Degradation Processes as a Key Factor in Esca-Complex of Diseases of Grapevine”;
- Experience with numerous laboratory techniques in the fields of biotechnology, biochemistry, and mycology;
- Worked in laboratories in France, Italy, Sweden, and Germany, always in an international setting;
- COST Action CA20132 grant winner - Urban Tree Guard - Safeguarding European urban trees and forests through improved biosecurity (UB3Guard) - Short-term scientific mission performed in Linnaeus University, Växjö, Sweden;
- “Young researchers in training” grant winner (XXVIII SIPaV congress 2023);
- Winner of SIPaV financing grant for XX International Plant Protection Congress (IPPC) 2024;
- Presented 3 talks and 2 posters, as well as participation in a poster as a non-presenting author, at international congresses

Southern Swedish Forest Research Center - Lomma, Sweden
09 - 12 / 2020

Erasmus+ Internship student

- Worked on my master thesis: "Evaluation of the potential of *Monographella nivalis* var. *nivalis* as an antagonist of the pathogen *Ophiostoma novo-ulmi*";
- Work both in the laboratory and in the field in an international framework;

CNR - Institute for the Sustainable Protection of Plants (IPSP) - Sesto Fiorentino (FI), Italy
08 - 11 / 2018

Internship Student

- Experience in doing survey for quarantine pests (both A1 and A2 list EPPO);
- Sampling for forest pathogens;
- Work in the laboratory in a sterile environment for pathogens isolation and identification.

DRIVING LICENSE

- A2
- B

FOR NON-RELATED WORK EXPERIENCE AND MORE INFORMATIONS

REFERENCES

- LAURA MUGNAI
  DAGRI - University of Florence
  Email : laura.mugnai@unfi.it
- CHRISTOPHE BERTSCH
  LVBE - Université de Haute-Alsace
  Email : christophe.bertsch@uha.fr
- JOHANNA WITZELL
  Department of Forestry and Wood Technology- Linneaus University
  Email : johanna.witzell@lnu.se

RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

- Moretti, S.; Goddard, M.-L.; **Puca, A.**; Lalevée, J.; Di Marco, S.; Mugnai, L.; Gelhaye, E.; Goodell, B.; Bertsch, C.; Farine, S. - **First Description of Non-Enzymatic Radical-Generating Mechanisms Adopted by *Fomitiporia mediterranea*: An Unexplored Pathway of the White Rot Agent of the Esca Complex of Diseases**. J. Fungi 2023, 9, 498. https://doi.org/10.3390/jof9040498
- *In preparation:* **Puca, A.**; Moretti, S.; Goddard, M.-L.; Lalevée, J.; Farine, S.; Bertsch, C.; Mugnai, L.; - **The tour of the world in 8 white rot species: assessment of enzymatic and non-enzymatic degradation capabilities of worldwide Esca Complex of Diseases associated decay agents**.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Molecular Aspects of Bio-Interactions — 10/2023
  - University of Haute-Alsace - Master Franco-German Viticulture & Oenology (FAVO), Master Grapevine sciences and Oenology (VE);
  - Five-hours course on how to perform DNA extraction, qPCRs as well as relative data analysis;
- Plants nutrition — 11-12/2023
  - University of Haute-Alsace - Master Grapevine sciences and Oenology (VE);
  - Six-hour course covering the micropropagation of grapevine calluses on different nutrient media, followed by an assessment of media effects and data analysis
- Internship supervisor — 15/04 - 07/06 /2024
  - Samantha Carlier - M1 Master in Microbiology, Université de Lorraine
  - 245 hours stage;
  - Title: Characterization of microorganisms in the Esca complex of grapevine: focusing on the degradation capabilities of the agents responsible for the formation of white rot

VOLUNTEER WORK

- Red Cross - Comitato della Piana Pistoiese — 2017 - 2023
  - Volunteer work as an operator with the following certifications:
    - TS-SA, Medical transport, and ambulance rescue;
    - OPEM, CRI Emergency Activities Operator.
  - Planner and responsible person for the educational vegetable garden of the “NoiCiSiamo” project.