



Ms. Herieth Rhodes Mero

Herieth Rhodes Mero is an assistant lecturer specialized in Genetics, Genomics, Bioinformatics, Molecular Biology and Biotechnology at Mkwawa University College of Education (MUCE), a constituent College of University of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania. In addition to holding a Bsc. in Biotechnology and Laboratory Sciences and Msc. in One Health Molecular Biology all from Sokoine University of Agriculture, currently she is pursuing a PhD. in Interdisciplinary Molecular Biosciences (Bioinformatics stream) at the University of Dar Es Salaam (2016-2020). Being a potential and highly experienced Virologist, her research work has been centered on genomics, genetic diversity, evolution and molecular epidemiology of animal and plant viruses. She conducted research on Marek's disease in poultry and Foot-and-mouth disease in cattle. Of recent she is engaged in Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)-funded Cassava projects under the Eastern Hub of International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA). As part of her doctorate study, she is scrutinizing "*Host-pathogen interaction, Genetic diversity and Comparative transcriptomics of Cassava Brown Streak Viruses (CBSVs) in Tanzania*". Her research interest is not limited to Virology, but extended to plant Bacteriology and Mycology involving the powerful Metagenomics and Metabarcoding tools. Considering her comprehensive knowledge across multiple disciplines of science, she is teaching Bioinformatics, Molecular Genetics, Genomics, Molecular Biology and Biotechnology. Considering her magnificent computer and Bioinformatics skills she is also good in analysis of Proteome, Transcriptome and Genome data by using different computerized softwares (UGENE, Wemboss, Pymol, Swiss PDB Viewer) and programming language (Linux).

Contacts

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Biodata

Nationality: Tanzanian

Date of birth: 22nd September, 1988

Gender: Female

Marital status: Married

Research experience

University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM)

Host-pathogen interaction, Genetic diversity and Comparative transcriptomics of Cassava Brown Streak Viruses (CBSVs) in selected region of Tanzania (2018-2020).

Sokoine University of Agriculture

Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) project funded by Southern African Centre for Infectious Disease Surveillance (SACIDS)

Detection and serotyping of FMD virus in Tanzania by using real-time Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain reaction (RT-PCR) in 2012.

Development and validation of one-step, real-time RT-PCR assay for diagnosis of Foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) in Tanzania (September, 2014- September, 2015).

Kilimanjaro Christian Research Institute (KCRI) at Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Center (KCMC)

Malaria-control research project, 2012.

Speciation of Anopheles mosquitoes in selected parts of Tanzania by Nested PCR.

Identification of Knock-down resistance to insecticides (Organochlorides, Organophosphates, Carbamates and Pyrethroid insecticides) in Anopheles Mosquitoes in selected parts of Tanzania by targeting Single Nucleotide Polymorphism (SNPs).

Veterinary Investigation Centre (VIC), Northern Zone

Molecular diagnosis of Marek's Disease in Arusha (2011).

Workshop and presentations

Norwegian Society for Development (Norges Vel) and Institute of management and Entrepreneurship Development (IMED) foundation

Women Economic Empowerment (WEE) through different opportunities in renewable energy value chain in Dar es Salaam (2016)

Scientific Publications

Bachanek-Bankowska, K., Belsham, G., Wadsworth, J., Lasagna, C., Sallu, R., Mioulet, V., Mero, H., Knowles, N. and King, D. (2016). Development and Evaluation of tailored specific real-time RT-PCR assay for detection of Foot-and-mouth disease virus serotypes circulating in East Africa. *Journal of Virological Methods* 237:114-120.

Mero, H. R. (November, 2015). Application of real-time RT-PCR assay for detection and typing of Foot-and-mouth disease virus in Tanzania. Masters of Science in Molecular Biology Dissertation, Sokoine University of Agriculture.

Affiliation/ Association

Biotechnology and Laboratory Sciences Association (BLSA)

Biotechnology Association of Tanzania (BAT)