




Alison Jade Moody

Plant Pathologist

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 Code B (8)

A 27-year-old self-motivated, ambitious, hardworking individual who's eager to enter the industry and gain experience, learn and master new skills. Passions lie in sustainable agriculture, crop protection, agricultural and forest pathology, horticulture, post-harvest pathology, agronomy and molecular biology and keen interest in modern agriculture and technology. Strong problem-solving skills, ability to absorb information, learn quickly and perform well under versatile conditions.

Experience

2021-02 – Present Pest and Disease Research Intern

Sappi Shaw Research Centre (Howick)

- Conducting pest and disease surveys and monitoring.
- Carrying out *in vitro* trials and preparation of growth media.
- Microscopy.
- Disease diagnostics.
- Conducting nursery trials to screen biological pesticides to control common tree nursery pests and pathogens.
- Data collection, capture and analysis.
- Report writing (i.e. File Notes and Technical Reports).
- Laboratory stock taking.

2020-05 – 2021-02 Retrenchment due to Covid-19 lockdown and subsequent University shut down. This time was spent writing up my Master's dissertation.

2020-02 – 2020-04 Temporary Assistant to School Finance Officer
University of KwaZulu-Natal (PMB)

- Processing orders (quotes, orders, invoices) for administrative staff, academic staff and laboratory technicians in the school.
- Miscellaneous administrative duties such as filing, printing, copying and scanning of documents.

2017-11 – 2020-02 Casual Receptionist

University of KwaZulu-Natal (PMB)

- Tending to telephonic and walk-in queries.
- Forwarding internal and external incoming calls to the relevant support and academic staff.
- Distributing stationary, projectors, school vehicle keys and logbooks to students and staff; sending and receiving mail and courier items for students and staff in the school.
- Sorting incoming mail to the relevant department pigeon holes; keeping the reception area neat and tidy.
- Booking lecture venues and seminar rooms for staff.
- Reporting dysfunctional and broken printers, building access doors, campus entrance and exit boom gates etc. to campus management services.
- Distributing certificates of merit and dean's commendations to students; distributing staff payslips and IRP5 forms.
- Reporting printing/binding jobs for staff to the relevant printing companies for collection.

2018-06 – 2019-12 Laboratory Demonstrator

University of KwaZulu-Natal (PMB)

- Demonstrating undergraduate plant pathology laboratory assessment before they commence.
- Overseeing and assisting students with experimental protocols.
- Grading practical write-up's and literature reviews of students.
- Preparing growth media and cultures for practicals.

2017-11 – 2018-02 Casual Sales Assistant

CUM Books (PMB)

- Tending to telephonic queries.

- Customers service.
- Sorting books and other merchandise in the relevant order.
- keeping bookshelves and the store in general neat, clean and tidy.

Education

2021	University of KwaZulu-Natal
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master of Science in Agriculture (BSc Agric) Plant Pathology
2016	University of KwaZulu-Natal
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bachelor of Science in Agriculture (BSc Agric) Plant Pathology
2012	Haythorne Secondary School
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matric /Grade 12: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mathematics ○ Physical Science ○ Life Science (Passed with distinction, highest final mark in the grade) ○ Geography (Passed with Distinction) ○ English (Home language) ○ Afrikaans (First additional language) ○ Life Orientation (Passed with distinction)

Skills and Expertise

My fourth year (Honour's) and Master's research has focused on biological control. Both involved investigating fungi, bacteria and yeast strains that occur naturally in nature that are capable of antagonizing phytopathogens that infect and cause diseases in a wide range of agricultural field crops, subsequently reducing yields. My passion lies in sustainable agriculture and crop protection.

I can perform specialized, standardized and routine microbiology and plant pathology laboratory tests, as well as molecular biology protocols. These include, but are not limited to, tissue culturing; isolation, purification and identification of epi- and endo-phytic microorganisms; polymerase chain reaction (PCR); enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA); gel electrophoresis; operation of stereo, compound and scanning electron microscopes; operation of centrifuge; *in vitro* (laboratory) screening of microbial antagonists

and performing Koch's postulates and other techniques to diagnose diseases. Due to the nature of my research I have developed agronomical and horticultural skills.

I also have experience in conducting experiments *in vivo* (greenhouse), in growth chambers and in the field as well as experimental design, data collection and statistical analysis. I have used statistical software packages such as Genstat® and SAS to analyze and express data from experimental trials. I can compile scientific reports and have strong writing skills.

Transferable Skills

- Effective written and verbal communication skills
- Attention to detail
- Computer literacy (proficiency in Microsoft Word, Excel Spreadsheets and PowerPoint)
- Exceptional organizational and record keeping skills
- Interpersonal skills
- Telephone etiquette
- Numerical competence
- Ability to perform well under pressure and balance multiple tasks
- Statistics and data analysis
- Public speaking
- Individual leadership and people management skills
- Work under strict and limited supervision
- Customer service
- Systematic and analytical approach to problem-solving
- Management reporting
- Trial design and data collection
- High level of integrity, ethics, self-respect and respect for others

Awards and Affiliations

- Numerous certificates of merit for outstanding academic performance during undergraduate university and fourth year (2014 – 2016)
- Award for best literature review (2014)

- Award for third best speaker (2016)
- South African Society for Plant Pathology, Member
- South African Counsel for Natural Scientific Professions, Candidate Natural Scientist

References

Prof. Jolanda Roux

Programme Leader: Pest and Disease

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