

## Boroka (Juniper) Kiss

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### PROFILE

Trained **plant scientist** with extensive research experience in field trials, statistical modelling, laboratory and greenhouse experiments in the UK, Europe, US, Namibia, Nepal, Philippines, Costa Rica and Papua New Guinea. Passionate about science communication, data analysis, plant pathology and agricultural extension services.

**Skills briefly:** Multicultural teamwork, Critical thinking, Taking initiative, Meeting strict deadlines, Project planning and management, Writing progress reports and tender applications. Budget management, Science communication, Graphic design, Podcast production, Plant science and plant pathology, Tissue culture maintenance, Social surveys related to food security, Literature reviews and meta-analyses, Using High-Performance Computing and Linux systems, Advanced statistical skills and spatial analysis in R, Remote sensing in Google Earth Engine (JavaScript), Shotgun metagenomics

### EDUCATION & QUALIFICATIONS

**2020-2024:** UKRI NERC-funded INSPIRE Doctoral Training Program - University of Southampton.

- PhD title: Enhancing ecosystem functioning to improve the resilience of subsistence farming in Papua New Guinea (<https://www.southampton.ac.uk/biosci/research/projects/enhancing-ecosystem-functioning.page>). Suspended PhD studies on 24 June 2022 for 12 months.

**2019-2020:** Masters by Research with Distinction in Biological Science - University of Bristol.

Rotation project titles:

- The impact of extreme weather events spatially differs for banana yields and prices in the Philippines
- A theoretical modelling framework for investigating the suitability of biological controls against a soilborne pathogen: a case for Panama disease (*Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *cubense*) control in the Philippines

**2017-2019:** Bachelor's degree (Hons) with First Class Degree - Aberystwyth University. Top Student within the department and amongst the Royal Society of Biology-accredited courses.

Dissertation title:

- Unreliable taxonomy of subgenus *Rubus* (brambles) revealed by geometric morphometrics and molecular phylogenetic analysis

**2014-2017:** Certificate of Higher Education in Marine Biology with Biodiversity and Conservation - Anglia Ruskin University. Studied part-time for three years whilst working full-time.

### WORK EXPERIENCE

**Jan 2023 – Currently:** Research Assistant, Geospatial Health and Development, Telethon Kids Institute (Perth, WA)

- Assisting Malaria Atlas Project researchers in the preparation of model inputs, implementation of workflows, and dissemination of results, including assisting writing papers for peer reviewed publication
- Support the Global Burdens of Disease modelling pipeline in RStudio Pro platform

**Aug 2022 to Dec 2022:** Agricultural Research and Extension Officer | Liebe Group (Dalwallinu, WA)

- Coordinated and monitored 17 crop trials funded by different agencies (e.g., DPIRD, NRM, GRDC, GGA) on farmers' lands in collaboration with researchers (e.g., Curtin University, UWA, Murdoch, SoilWest)
- Collected data, carried out grower surveys, and analysed data in Excel and R
- Wrote progress reports, coordinated with consultants, and wrote successful GRDC tenders (approx. totaling up to \$1.5 million)

**Feb 2020 to Present:** Blogger and Social Media Assistant | Botany One

- Managed social media channels using Buffer and Tweetdeck
- Wrote two blog articles per week (<https://www.botany.one/author/juniper/>)
- Analysed social media data and producing quarterly reports (e.g., the Twitter account gained 2.5 million impressions in 2021)

**Feb 2018 to Aug 2019:** Social Media and Digital Communications Assistant | American Society of Plant Biologists

- Managed social media (e.g., Plantae, ASPB, Taproot) channels using Buffer based on data analytics

- Established the in-house ASPB and Plantae graphic templates in the online design software, Lucidpress
- Provided technical assistance for building the Plantae plant scientist online community by writing blogs, engaging with online members through workshops and webinars

#### **Aug 2017 to Sep 2017: Administration Assistant | Eszterházy Károly University (Hungary)**

- Liaised with summer school participants and invited lecturers and organised transportation, accommodation, and catering
- Designed and managed the summer school's website on WordPress (<http://pmildewschool2017.uni-eszterhazy.hu>)

#### **Aug 2015 to Feb 2017: Field Trials Technician and Team Leader | National Institute of Agricultural Botany (NIAB, Cambridge)**

- Worked within the Agricultural Crop Characterization Department on European crop variety Distinctiveness Uniformity and Stability field and glasshouse trials
- Coordinated the daily off-site data collection of plant characters from 5,000 plots and image analysis of oilseed rape petals, pods, and cotyledons on a £1.2 million budget project
- Trained new staff and supervised 12 temporary technicians, liaised with the project, technical and farm managers

#### **Aug 2016 – Oct 2017: Editor-in-Chief (Self-employed) | GOES Magazine**

- Started up a magazine to publish undergraduate and graduate student articles about science, conservation, and sustainability (online and in print) (<https://tykoonbk.wixsite.com/goesmagazine/issue-5-oct-17>)
- Coordinated peer review and involved authors at every step of the publishing process

#### **Jun 2015 to Aug 2015: Summer Student - Technical Support | Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience International (CABI, Egham)**

- Provided technical support for multiple-choice experiments to test potential arthropod biocontrol agents against invasive plants (e.g., *Fallopia japonica*, *Hydrocotyle ranunculoides*, *Azolla filiculoides*)
- Maintained over a thousand invasive and native plants, and arthropod populations (e.g., psyllids, weevils) in greenhouse facilities
- General maintenance of Level 2 and Level 3 quarantine facilities, including discarding or moving planting materials according to following standard operating procedures
- Set up multiple-choice experiments and recorded results in Excel

#### **Sep 2014 to Jun 2015: Catering Assistant | National Trust**

- Provided high-quality customer service in a fast-paced canteen
- Prepared hot drinks, attended the till and plated hot food

#### **Jun 2014 to Aug 2014: Administration Assistant | Eszterházy Károly University (Hungary)**

- Same as the position in 2017.

#### **Jun 2013 to Aug 2013: Summer Student - Technical Support | CABI**

- Same as the position in 2015.

#### **AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS** (full list: <https://www.juniperkiss.com/cv>)

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NERC Omics Facility grant, 2021 (£12,000) - Soil microbial shotgun metagenomic sequencing using Novaseq 6000 related to PhD fieldwork.</li> <li>• Judith Heath Explorer for Botany and Research by the Scientific Exploration Society, 2021 (£5,250) - Go on a "sweet potato hunt" along Mt Wilhelm in Papua New Guinea, carry out social, genetic and nutritional analyses</li> <li>• Heredity Fieldwork Grant by the Genetics Society, 2021 (£1,500) - Investigating soil functioning during the swidden agricultural cycle in Papua New Guinea</li> <li>• British Society of Plant Pathology's Junior Fellowship, 2021 (£3,000) - For PhD fieldwork in Papua New Guinea.</li> <li>• Tropical Agriculture Association, Standard Award, 2021 (£2,000) - For PhD fieldwork (establishing experimental gardens) in Papua New Guinea.</li> <li>• Nelson Yield-Limiting Factors Graduate Student Scholarship, 2020 (\$3,000) by American Society of</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agronomy, Crop Science and Soil Science</li> <li>• The Royal Society of Biology 'Top Student Award', 2019 and 'Top Project Award for a BSc Student on an RSoB Accredited Scheme', 2019</li> <li>• Agronomic Travel Study Undergraduate Scholarship, 2018 (\$5,000) by American Society of Agronomy – 3-week intensive Rice: Research to Production course at IRRI (Los Banos, Philippines)</li> <li>• C. Roy Adair Scholar by University of Arkansas, 2018 (\$5,600)</li> <li>• 10-week plant pathology internship with Prof Jim Correll. Worked with downy mildew resistance in baby spinach, including primer designing, Virus-Induced Gene Silencing and spinach tissue culture management.</li> <li>• Anglia Trust Foundation Scholarship (£750), 2017- four weeks visiting the Plant Protection Directorate (Ministry of Agricultural Development) and CABI in Nepal to learn about agricultural extension programs</li> <li>• Golden Opportunities Scholar, 2016 (\$2,200) by American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science and Soil</li> </ul> |
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