BOROKA KISS

Known as: Juniper Kiss **| Mobile:** +447930482721 **| Website:** https://www.juniperkiss.com/cv

PROFILE

Highly motivated first-year PhD student at the University of Southampton, working with subsistence farmers in Papua New Guinea. Plant scientist with extensive research experience in ecology and plant pathology. Passionate about plant science communication, outreach and agricultural extension services in tropical countries.

UNIVERSITY EDUCATION

- **2020-2024:** University of Southampton, Southampton, UK - NERC-funded INSPIRE DTP. Running title: Enhancing ecosystem functioning to improve resilience of subsistence farming in Papua New Guinea.
- **2019-2020:** University of Exeter, Exeter, UK – BBSRC-funded SWBio DTP.
  Running title: Preparing for Fusarium wilt of bananas in Latin America and the Caribbean.
  Exited with MRes in Biological Sciences from the University of Bristol with Distinction.
- **2017-2019: Aberystwyth University, Wales, UK** – BSc (Hons) Plant Biology (full-time, transferred into second year)
  Graduated with First Class degree with an 84.23% average
- **2014 – 2017: Anglia Ruskin University (ARU), Cambridge, UK** – BSc (Hons) Marine Biology with Biodiversity and Conservation (three years part-time)

RESEARCH SKILLS – CABI, NIAB, ARU, UARK

- **CABI (Egham, UK) - Summer Research Technician**
- Set up multiple-choice choice experiments to test potential arthropod biocontrol agents against invasive plants
- Responsible for glasshouse and quarantine facilities maintenance including daily watering and pest management
- **NIAB (Cambridge, UK) - Field Trials Technician and Team Leader**
- Worked within the Agricultural Crop Characterization Department on European crop variety DUS trials
- Met strict deadlines set by DEFRA and APHA, with a team of 12 temporary technicians
- Trained new staff, coordinated off-site data collection of plant characters from 5,000 test plots and image analysis of oilseed rape petals, pods, cotyledons of a £1.2 million budget project
- Maintained Long Term Seed Storage facilities, processed new samples and database
- **C. Roy Adair Scholar at University of Arkansas (Fayetteville, USA)**
- 10-week internship within the Plant Pathology Department working on downy mildew resistance in baby spinach, including primer designing, Virus Induced Gene Silencing and tissue culture management.
- Isolated and identified plant pathogens from California, carried out pathogenicity testing, DNA extraction, PCR of downy mildew strains and carried out VCG testing of *Fusarium* isolates of cilantro and celery
- **Anglia Ruskin University (Cambridge, UK) and Aberystwyth University (Aberystwyth, UK) as Undergraduate Student**
- Designed and carried out independent research project on British bramble taxonomy
- Collected bramble leaves from contrasting ecosystems the UK and used image analysis (ImageJ software) for geometric morphometrics (MorphoJ and R software)
- Extracted leaf tissue DNA and carried out three-loci PCR at Eotvos Lorand University (Budapest, Hungary) for phylogenetic analysis.

WRITING AND SOCIAL MEDIA SKILLS – GOES magazine, ASPB, Plantae

- **GOES magazine – Editor in Chief and Designer**
- Started up a magazine to publish undergraduate and graduate student articles about science, conservation and sustainability (online and hard copies)
- Coordinated peer review and involved authors every step of the publishing process
- Used GoogleDoc for live editing and Lucidpress software for live designing
- **ASPB, Plantae, BotanyOne – Digital Communications and Social Media Assistant**
- Responsible for managing social media channels using Buffer, desiged Plantae graphics, edited the Taproot Podcast, wrote blogs and Plant Science Research Weekly summaries

WORK EXPERIENCES AND SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY INVOLVEMENT

Blogger and Social Media Assistant - BotanyOne (UK)	2/2020 – currently
SCI Horticulture's Secretary and Agrifood ECR Group Committee Member	10/2019 - currently
Social Media and Communications Assistant ASPB (USA)	2/2018 – 8/2019
Steering Committee Member – New Networks for Nature (UK)	7/2017 – 8/2018
Administration Assistant – Powdery Mildew Summer School (Eszterházy Károly University, HU)	8/2017 – 9/2017
Executive Committee Member – Cambridge Conservation Forum	2/2017 – 8/2017
Field Trials Technician and Team Leader - NIAB (Cambridge, UK)	8/2015 – 01/2017
Summer Research Technician – CABI (Egham, UK)	6/2015 – 8/2015
Catering Assistant – National Trust (Anglesey Abbey, UK)	9/2014 – 6/2015
Administration Assistant – Powdery Mildew Summer School (Eszterházy Károly University, HU)	6/2014 – 8/2014
Summer Technician – CABI (Egham, UK)	6/2013 – 8/2013

SCHOLARSHIPS, GRANTS AND AWARDS

- Nelson Yield-Limiting Factors Graduate Student Scholarship, 2020 ($3,000) by American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science and Soil Science
- Second place in student poster and 5-minute rapid-fire presentation during ASA-CSSA-SSSA AGM 2020 ($250): "Biocontrols Against Banana Pests and Diseases: A Bayesian Meta-Analysis"
- Second place in student presentation during Sustainable Agronomy Conference by ASA-CSSA-SSSA 2020 ($100): "Biocontrols Against Banana Pests and Diseases: A Bayesian Meta-Analysis"
- The Royal Society of Biology 'Top Student Award', 2019 and 'Top Project Award for a BSc Student on an RSoB Accredited Scheme', 2019
- Stapledon Society Prize' for the Highest Mark of any IBERS Bachelor of Science Degree, 2019
- David Miller Award (£500) by the Society of Chemical Industry - Attended the CORBANA International Banana Congress in Miami, FL
- Travel Award, 2019 - To present at Plant Sciences Symposium at Minnesota University ($500), sponsored by CORTEVA
- 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)
- C. Roy Adair Scholar by University of Arkansas, 2018 ($5,600) – 10-week plant pathology internship with Prof Jim Correll
- Phenome Travel Grant, 2018 ($2,000) – Attending and presenting poster and lightning talk about independent research, *'Revisiting subgenus Rubus (blackberries) taxonomy with the combination of geometric morphometrics and molecular methods'* at Phenome Conference in Tucson, AZ organised by ASPB
- eLife Community Ambassador, 2018 – involved in the anti-bullying and sustainability initiatives
- 'Best Presenter' award (£100) by the Systematists Association, Young Systematists Forum, Natural History Museum, London, 2018 –Presented *"Phylogenetic signal in subgenus Rubus (brambles, blackberries) leaflet shape using geometric morphometrics"*
- ASPB Conviron Scholarship, 2017 - hands- on virtual learning program that includes career seminars, round-table discussions, and workshops that help develop skills for success. Mentored by Prof Sarah Wyatt
- 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
- The Big Pitch, 2017 (£1,000) by Anglia Ruskin University – competition for start-ups, consisted of one-year mentorship, leadership training
- Be the Change' grant, 2017 (£1,000) by the Global Sustainability Institute – Incorporating GOES magazine's structure into the curriculum
- Andy Wilson Bursary, 2017 (£1,000) by Anglia Ruskin University – start-up costs for GOES magazine (https://www.goesmagazine.org)
- John Ray Summer Research Grant, 2017 (£500) by the John Ray Trust – carried out independent research on blackberry taxonomy by combining image analysis with molecular methods
- Golden Opportunities Scholar, 2016 ($2,200) by American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science and Soil Science – Travelled to ASA, ACCS, ASSS's AGM in Phoenix, Arizona, USA.
- Anglia Trust Foundation Scholarship, 2016 (£560) - two weeks at Konnevesi Research Station at Jyvaskyla University, Finland. Completed Boreal Winter Methods in Community Ecology course
- Anglia Trust Foundation Scholarship, 2015 (£750) - 10 weeks in the Namib Desert at Kuzikus Nature Reserve, completing vegetation surveys, animal population counts and small mammal trappings