

Curriculum Vitae Vittoria Catara 2021

*Current position: Associate professor in Plant Pathology, Dipartimento di Agricoltura, Alimentazione e Ambiente (Di3A), Università degli Studi di Catania (UniCT), Italy.

*Education and qualification:

- ASN - Italian Academic Qualification as Full professor in Plant pathology (ASN 2012; ASN 2016)
- PhD in Plant Pathology, University of Bari, Italy (1995).
- Master in Science (5 years) in Agricultural Science, Faculty of Agricultural Science, University of Catania, Italy (1989).

*Present appointments:

- Member of the Organising committee of the 14th International Conference on Plant Pathogenic Bacteria (ICPPB2020), Assisi, Italy (postponed in 2022).
- Member of the Scientific committee 4th Annual Conference on "Integrating science on *Xanthomonadaceae* for integrated plant disease management in Europe" Belgrade Serbia (postponed in late 2021).
- Senior Editor, Australasian Plant Disease Notes, Springer (2018 - present)
- Vice Chair of the Management committee, COST action 16170 EuroXanth: Integrating science on *Xanthomonadaceae* for integrated plant disease management in Europe (2017- 2021).
- Coordinator, Master in Science in "Agricultural Biotechnology", Dipartimento di Agricoltura, Alimentazione e Ambiente (Di3A), UniCT (2016 - Present).
- Council Member, Ph.D. in Biotechnology, University of Catania (UniCT) (2017-present).
- Associate Editor, European Journal of Plant Pathology, Springer (2013 - Present).
- Responsible at Di3A-UniCT for the laboratory acknowledged for *Xyella fastidiosa* first level analysis by Sicilian Plant Protection Service, Regione siciliana.
- Associate professor in Plant Pathology, Di3A, UniCT, Italy (2006 - Present).

*Main research activities and responsibilities:

Research activity 1990- present, Plant pathology section at DISTEF (now Di3A) UniCT, Italy.

- She coordinates a research group involved in phytobacteriology studies. Past and current research activity: molecular techniques for the diagnosis of plant pathogens including fastidious bacteria; phenotypic and genomic characterization of bacteria and fungi; evaluation of plant resistance; characterization and application of biocontrol agents; molecular aspect of polyhydroxyalkanoates production in bacteria; Quorum sensing in *Pseudomonas* spp.; molecular plant bacteria interaction; genomics of *Pseudomonas* spp. She recently joined the International Citrus Microbiome consortium (<http://escholarship.org/uc/item/5xp3v2rc>).
- Board Member, Italian Phytopathological Society (2017-2019).
- Scientific responsible of a Phytobacteriology Diagnostic laboratory in National and International ring tests on quarantine bacteria.
- 30 invited seminars (scientific or divulgative).
- Active collaboration with Eu and USA Scientists for studies on plant-associated bacteria and with China for studies on Citrus disease caused by bacteria.
- Member of the International Citrus Microbiome (Phytobiome) Consortium.
 - Scientific committee: 1st Annual Conference on "Integrating science on *Xanthomonadaceae* for integrated plant disease management in Europe" in Coimbra, Portugal, from 13 to 15 December 2017.
 - Organising committee: 6th International Symposium on Brassica and 18th Genetics Workshop "Exploitation of Brassica diversity for improving agriculture chains". Catania 12-16/11/2012.
- Organising committee: 60 mo Convegno Società Italiana di Genetica Agraria. Catania 12-16 settembre 2016.
- Member of the Scientific and Organising committee of the 4th International Symposium on Biological Control of Plant Bacterial Diseases "BIOCONTROL 2019" Viterbo, Italy.
- Member of the Scientific committee XXV Convegno Nazionale della Società Italiana di Patologia vegetale. Milano 15-18 settembre 2019.

- Member of the Scientific committee: 3rd Annual Conference of the EuroXanth COST Action “Integrating science on *Xanthomonadaceae* for integrated plant disease management in Europe” Lednice, Czech Republic, 9 to 11 September 2019.
- Organiser of the Extended Core Group Meeting of the midterm, EuroXanth COST Action “Integrating science on *Xanthomonadaceae* for integrated plant disease management in Europe Di3A, UniCT Catania, Italy, 25-27 February 2019.

*Memberships: Italian Society for Plant Pathology, the Italian working group on phytopathogenic bacteria, the Mediterranean Phytopathological Union; Australasian Society for Plant Pathology.

*Experiences in international institutions

- 2012 Visiting Scientist (24-31 August) University of Reading, UK.
- 2012 Visiting Scientist (24 April-3 May): Hunan Agricultural University, Changsha, R.P. Cina. Guanzhou Agricultural University, Guandong, China.
- 2010 Visiting Scientist (13-24 January): Hunan Agricultural University, Changsha, R.P. Cina.
- 2006 International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology,
- 13-15/11 Ca’Tron di Roncade (TV) Italy.
- 2004 Visiting scientific (8-13 November) University of the West of England, Bristol, U.K.
- 1998 Researcher fellow (February-May) Biological and Biomedical Science Department, University of the West of England, Bristol, U.K.
- 1996 (two weeks) Visiting scientist. Research Centers in UK and Netherlands, ENEA grant.
- 1994 (April-June) Visiting PhD student, INRA Centre de recherches de Pathologie Vegetale et Phytobacteriologie d'Angers, Angers, France.
- 1993 (May-July) Visiting PhD student, Instituto Valenciano de Investigaciones Agrarias, Moncada, Valencia, Spain. Academic activity

*2003- Present Teaching activity BA and MSc degree courses, Agriculture degrees, UniCT:

- 2019-2020 – present Plant pathophysiology (BA);
- 2010-2011- Present Molecular Plant Pathology (MSs);
- 2018-2019 - Present Diagnosis in Plant pathology (BA);
- 2013-14 Postharvest Plant Pathology (BA);
- 2008-2010 Forest Pathology (BA);
- 2003-2007 Diseases of ornamental and forest plants (BA);
- Chemistry degrees: 2005-2008 Plant pathology (BA);

- *2007- present Member of the Council in PhD courses, UniCT.
- 2017- present Ph.D. in Biotechnology
 - 2013-2017 International Ph.D. in Agricultural, Food and Environmental Science;
 - 2007- Ph.D. in Biotechnology;
 - 2004- Present Supervisor of 4 Ph.D. Thesis and several MSc and bachelor thesis at UniCt.
- 2012-2014 Board Member for Associate professors, Department Council, DISPA, UniCT 2005-2006 Board Member for researchers, Department Council, DISPA, UniCT
- Member of the Jury for Ph.D student admission and final discussion (National, International).

*Project involvement and reviewer:

Project responsibilities

- SIRPA WP2 Responsible Regione Siciliana P.O. FESR SICILIA 2014/2020, Azione 1.1.5. Sviluppo Di Induttori Di Resistenza A Patogeni Vascolari Degli Agrumi (S.I.R.P.A.) Responsabile del WP 2. Sviluppo di un preparato microbico contro il mal secco.
- Research Unit Responsible “Ornamental Rutaceous Plants *Xanthomonas campestris* subsp. citri Risk Assessment in Mediterranean” Eranet – Arinmet II call 2015 (2016-2019).
- Scientific responsible of the Agreement “Diagnosis of quarantine plant bacterial pathogen” Servizio Fitosanitario Regionale Regione Siciliana (2015-2017; 2018-2019; 2020-2021).

- Research Unit Responsible "Seed Project of Sicilian Region" Regional Department of Agricultural and Food Resources, Department of Agriculture, Regione siciliana (2010-2015).
- PON 2007-2013 Technologies and processes for the production of diversely functionalised sheets based on microbial biopolymers and biosurfactants (PolyBioPlast).
 - Scientific responsible of the convention "Validation of diagnostic protocol for quarantine bacterial plant pathogen-ARNADIA" with CRA-PAVEG MIPAF, ARNADIA, leded by CRA-PAVEG, Rome, MIPAF.
- Research responsible "Genotype and phenotype interaction in phytopathogenic bacteria", University of Catania (2008).
- Research responsible "Evaluation of pathogenicity factors in tomato-bacteria interaction", University of Catania, (2007).
- Research responsible "Quorum sensing in *Pseudomonas corrugata*", University of Catania (2006).
- Research responsible "Molecular characterization of *Pseudomonas corrugata* and *P. mediterranea* strains", University of Catania (2005).
- PON 2000-2006 " Utilization of waste materials for the development of biodegradable polymers (PHA) on agriculture and agro-industry ".
- Research responsible "Effectors gene in *Pseudomonas corrugata*", British project, CRUI-British Council 2004
 - Research responsible "Molecular basis of virulence in *Pseudomonas corrugata* on tomato", Young researcher project University of Catania (2003).

*Project reviewer: BARD The US-Israel Agricultural Research & Development Fund; AgreenSkills+.

*Manuscript reviewer: Molecular Plant Pathology, Molecular Plant Microbe Interaction, Plant Pathology, European Journal of Plant Pathology, Journal of Plant Pathology, Phytopatologia Mediterranea, Phytopathology, Plant Diseases, Plant Pathology, Research in Microbiology, Journal of Applied Microbiology, Frontiers in Microbiology, Frontiers in Plant science, PlosONE, Journal of Industrial Biotechnology.

*Editorial Board participation: 2018 – present Australian Plant Disease Notes; 2013- present Associate Editor European Journal of Plant Pathology. 2008-2014 Editorial board, Molecular Plant Pathology. 2008-2012 Editorial board journals of the Global Science Book Ltd., Japan (The European Journal of Plant Science and Biotechnology; Pest Technology).

*Publications: 52 scientific publications indexed by WoS/Scopus; 2 book chapters; 27 scientific papers in National and International journals (non-indexed), more than 120 scientific contributions at National and International conferences. Scopus h index: 15.