

GRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Professional Summary

Dedicated professional with excellent technical, analytical and communication skills demonstrated in ten years of experience in the agricultural sector, specifically in the Research and Development division with an extensive knowledge of biological control in the field of Entomology

Core Qualifications

- Background in biological control using member from the Coleopteran family of insect
- Expert in data analysis
- Area wide surveys and data collection for research
- Data presentation
- Experimental design/implementation

Accomplishments

- Successfully determine the biology, reproduction and the effect of chemicals on the *Thalassa montezumae*, a predatory beetle of the new invasive scale insect *Phalacroccoccus howertoni* in South Florida.
- Integrated Pest Management Workshop Identification of Scales Mealybugs and Natural enemies.
- Identification of Mites of economic importance to the Caribbean and their Natural enemies Training Seminar on Management of Protected Cultivation Insect.
- Identification of Nematodes for Professional Consultants Green house training course.

Experience

Company Name City, State GRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANT 01/2013 to 04/2016

- Assist with various research project in the Center of Biological control lab.
- Developing a potential biological control for Croton Scales (*Phalacroccoccus howertoni*).
- Maintain culture of Croton scales and *Thalassa montezumae* under green house and laboratory conditions,.

Company Name City PLANT PROTECTION OFFICER - Entomology 10/2011 to 12/2012

- Rear Parasitoids wasp (*Anagyrus kamali*) and release in areas affected by the Pink Hibiscus Mealy bug (*Maconellicoccus hirsutus*) with 95% success rate and determined parasitism levels at each site.
- Record data.
- Maintain cultures of Pink Hibiscus Mealybug and *Anagyrus kamali* at rearing facility.
- Develop solutions for pest problems in yam (*Dioscorea spp.*) in Jamaica
- Establish and conduct field evaluations with treatments against yam nematodes.
- Develop Citrus Greening Management Programme in Jamaica in collaboration with Food and Agriculture Organization and Government of Jamaica Components.
- Assist in the Island wide survey for incidence of citrus greening and parasitism levels of *Tamarixia radiata* .
- Assist the monitoring programme for the Area-wide Integrated Management Systems (AIMS) for Citrus greening in citrus orchards.
- Develop management program for the Beet Army Worm (*Spodoptera exigua*) and monitoring of farms in affected parishes.
- Establish & maintain Beet Army Worm culture in the laboratory.
- Conduct insecticide efficacy trial.
- Implement Integrated Pest Management of major pests of crops under Protective Cultivation in Jamaica
- Data generated on temperature, humidity and pest status in greenhouse crop.

Company Name City FIELD AND LAB RESEARCH ASSISTANT 12/2002 to 10/2011

- Receive diagnostic samples from extension officers and farmers.
- Prepare samples for diagnostics.
- Rear and preserved specimens as necessary.
- Establish experimental plots.
- Visit field for prescribed observations and data collection as was set out in proposals.
- Monitor on and off station experimental plots for infestations.
- Maintain inventory list, materials and lab space.
- Work on all research projects in the unit.
- Assist in Crop and Plant Protection Unit Integrated Pest Management Systems developing on several crops threshold base pesticides.
- Population dynamic study on Red Palm Mites and Broad Mites.

Education

Master of Science : Entomology - Qualifying 2016 Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University, City, State, United States

Bachelor of Science : Environmental Science 2011 Knox Community College, City, Jamaica

Associate of Science : General Agriculture 2006 College of Agriculture Science and Education, City, Jamaica

Professional Affiliations

Entomological Society of America (ESA)

Florida Entomological Society

Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University ESA debate team

Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences (MANNRS)

Awards and Publications

Reuben Capelouto Foundation and William L. Peters Memorial scholarship awardee 2013-2014 Monsanto 1890 Student Leadership Event participant, St. Louis Missouri, 2014

Mentoring at Purdue Summer Scholarship Program participant West Lafayette, Indiana, 2014.

ESA (Entomological Society of America). Annual Meeting. Portland, Oregon. Developing a Biological Control Measure for the Management of an Invasive Scale Insect, *Phalacroccoccus howertoni* (Hemiptera, Coccidae) in South Florida "Published Abstract.

ESA (Entomological Society of America). Annual Meeting. Portland, Oregon. "What is the single best tool to reduce malaria cases throughout the world?" "Published Article", 2014

Skills

Data collection, maintain inventory, statistical analysis, prepare sample and Microsoft office