Acknowledgements

This thesis would not have been brought into existence without the help and support of many people in the last five years, both personally and professionally. I would like to thank everyone that has supported me through the journey of this PhD project.

I would especially like to thank my PhD supervisor Prof. Dr. Toby Kiers. Toby has been an incredible supervisor in many ways. She has been very supportive during all times. Toby has such a great enthusiasm for science, that after every meeting I was inspired and willing to give my best on the projects. Toby has taught me many things, she has been an excellent co-author on all my chapters, commenting and giving ideas. She has also taught me how to be a scientist, precise on the details but also playful and full with art and stories. I would like to thank Toby for her support, her faithfulness and enthusiasm.

I would also like to thank my co-promotor Prof. Dr. Jacintha Ellers, who always had the timeline in her head and has given critical feedback during my PhD.

I would like to thank all the technicians in the lab, who helped me with the experiments. I would especially like to thank Simon Dupin, the former lab technician, who has taught me how to work with roots and arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi, Bram Eiberts and the other technicians of the department of Ecological Sciences. Rudo Verweij has been a great help for all tasks involving stock solutions, weighting and vacuum filtering. Janine Mariën has managed the molecular lab so well that there was always room to for the DNA extractions and qPCRs and Riet Vooijs who has introduced me to the lab rules and always was there for a chat. Later on, Malin Klein came as a new technician on our lab, and she has performed a lot of pilot studies which have strengthened my chapters. And not to forget, Jurgen van Hal who has helped me tremendously with growing plants in the symbiontron.

I would also like to thank the post docs in Toby Kiers’ lab. Especially, Matthew Whiteside, who has been a postdoc in Toby’s lab for the first three years of my PhD. Working with Matthew was always fun. He introduced me to work with quantum-dots, which are at the basis of many of my experiments. Without his expertise, I would never have been able to study the trading processes between fungi and plants which such precision. Also Victor Caldas and Loreto Oyarte Galves have been of a great help in taking and analyzing pictures. Berti Fisher had as short post-doc position, but has helped me greatly with running statistical models in R. And Aniek Ivens, I have not worked with her, but her enthusiasm throughout her projects inspired me to work in science.

I would also like to thank the people in my office, first Dr. Ken Kraayenveld and Peter Neeleman, who were always in for a short chat. Peter was always taking good care of the plants and ready for lunch. Later, Maartje Liefting, a friend and a co-worker came to the office. Maartje has always been such a great friend. We often have travelled back to Amersfoort after drinks or dinner. Also Gijsbert Werner, the former PhD student of Toby, has worked in my office. Gijsbert always had great scientific ideas, and has helped me numerous times with statistics and other computational duties.

Of the department I would like to thank all PhDs and Post-docs for our lively lunches, drinks at De Tegenstelling and chats at the corridor. Not only co-workers but also good friends. Cláudia De Lima e Silva, started her PhD around the same time, we build a good friendship
and we have shared many dinners. Monica Lodi, a great friend, a former PhD student, and
a role model on how to finish your thesis on time. Wendy Jesse, who had just started her
PhD when I came to the department, became a great friend, always so kind and friendly. Dré
Kampfraat, I would also like to thank you for your talks and happiness in the department.
Oscar Franken, who was always in for beer, late nights and fun. Giang Le Ngoc has been there
too for funny lunch talks and long hours in the lab. Estefania Velilla, for organising many
social events as the lab day outs, PhD weekends and Christmas dinners. Milou Huizinga for
being in the PPC with me and the nice talks. Francesco Boatta and Ruben Bakker, for the
lunches filled with talking and of course the other PhD students and Post-docs Astra Ooms,
Jeroen Noordhoek, Judith Smith, Mark Lammers, Matías Muños, Andrew Cronin, Anne
Krediet, Mima Malecika, Valeria Agamennone, Ralph Simon and Raoul van Oosten. I would
also like to thank the other staff members of the department, Prof. Dr. Matty Berg, Dr. Wouter
Halfwerk, Dr. Joris Koene, Dr. Dick Roelof, Prof. Dr. Kees van Gestel and Prof. Dr. Nico
van Straalen, who have always given useful feedback during the Monday morning meetings.

Also, I would like to thank the students I have supervised, Luisa Campi Tartagila, Fedde
Meijer, Solene Mauger, Louis Bell-Roberts and the students I did not work with directly but
have contributed to this work, Milenka Bakker, Cathleen Boersma, Nicky Hoebe and Adjani
Peralta. Thank you all, you have performed great work.

I would like to thank the reading committee, Prof. Dr. Ir. Harro Bouwmeester, Prof. Dr. Hans
Cornelissen, Prof. Dr. Ir. Gerlinde de Deyn, Prof. Dr. David Johnson and Dr. Vincent Merckx
for taking the time to read this thesis.

Outside the department, in my personal life there have also have been many important
persons who have supported me the last years. First of all my sisters, Maya and Josje. Maya
for being such a great bigger sister, friend and flatmate, always cooking dinner when I came
home late. Maya, I miss our time especially now you are so far away in Wales. Josje for
being such an fantastic sister and friend, to laugh and to cry with, and for the many forest
walks and horse riding events. I would also like to thank my parents Theo and Yvonne, who
have always been there for me, supporting my choices. Also my friends, Aafke Duizendstra,
for the time during our BSc in Wageningen, the parties, dinners, movies, and our talks now.
Simone Ariëns, for the fantastic time in our MSc, the many travels, dinners, walks and talks.
Océane Bartholomée, for the talks, trips, hiking and cooking and Vladimir Bajic, for the
warmest friendship ever, the talks, trips and adventures all across the world. And of course
I would like to give many many thanks to my fiancé Ron Siebeling, for just being there for
me when I needed that, for taking care of me, supporting me, advising me. You have done so
much for me, and I will be thankful for ever.

There were not only humans who have helped me during my PhD. I would like to give
a special thanks to my horses, even though they cannot read. They will always be there,
enlightening my life, giving joy and happiness. Nomi, for being the best, loveliest horse ever
and for giving me two beautiful healthy foals, Luna and Summer. The beauty of seeing a
baby horse grow up and explore the world has been an incredible experience. I would also
like to thank the two cats who have been my flatmates, Isolde and Yrsa.

Lastly, I would like to thank you for reading my thesis.
Curriculum Vitae Anouk van ’t Padje

Education

2015-2020  PhD Candidate in Evolutionary Biology, Department of Ecological Sciences, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (Amsterdam, The Netherlands).

2013-2015  Master of Science, Erasmus Mundus Master Programme in Evolutionary Biology (Distinction), Ludwig Maximilians University of Munich (Munich, Germany) and Uppsala University (Uppsala, Sweden).

2010-2013  Bachelor of Science in Biology (Distinction), Wageningen University (Wageningen, The Netherlands). Major: Organism and Developmental Biology, Minor: Wildlife Biodiversity.


Scientific publications


David Prötzel, Martin Hess, Mark D. Scherz, Martina Schwager, Anouk van ’t Padje and Frank Glaw (2018) Widespread bone-based fluorescence in chameleons. Scientific Reports,
doi: 10.1038/s41598-017-19070-7


Research Projects

2015  Evolution of obligatory mutualism between insects and intracellular bacteria. Supervisor: Prof. Dr. E. Toby Kiers, and Prof. Dr. Jacintha Ellers, Department of Ecological Sciences, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (Amsterdam, the Netherlands).

2014  Is parasitism in angiosperms an evolutionary ‘dead end’? An in depth investigation on speciation, diversification and extinction rate of parasitic and non-parasitic angiosperms. Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Chuck Davis, co-advised by Dr. Sarah Mathews, Harvard University Herbaria, (Cambridge, USA) and Prof. Dr. Suzanne Renner, Ludwig Maximilians University of Munich (Munich, Germany).

2014  Osteology and the evolution of Malagasy Chameleons in the Genus Calumma. Supervisor: Dr. Frank Glaw, Zoologische Staatssammlung München, Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich (Munich, Germany).

2013  The evolution of Lianas in the Tropical Plant Family Annonaceae. Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Lars Chatrou, Biosystematics group, Wageningen University (Wageningen, The Netherlands).

2012  The evolution of leaf traits in the Rhamnaceae. Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Peter Linder, Institute of Systematic Botany, University of Zurich (Zurich Switzerland).

Grants and awards

2018  Full travel grant to attend NEUBIAS Training School: Bioimage Analysis for your research by COST action CA15124 (Szeged, Hungary).

2016  Full travel grant to attend SCENE Training School: Meta-analysis workshop by COST Action FA1405 (Glasgow, Scotland).

2016  Talk awarded for outstanding presentation by F1000Research at EMPSEB 22 conference (Gotland, Sweden).
Skills

Languages: Dutch: Mother tongue.
English: Fluent (TOEFL total score: 105, 31 May 2013).

General: Academic writing, presenting, project planning, time managing, supervise students. EU driving license (categories BE).

Lab work: qPCR, DNA extraction, sterile working, culturing of arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi, root organ cultures and greenhouse plants, preparing stock, nutrient, and quantum-dot-apatite solutions, fluorescent analysis, confocal microscopy.

Computer: Statistical analysis (R, SPSS, Matlab), phylogenetic analysis (R, Beast, FigTree, Mesquite, Mr Bayes, PAUP*, SIMMAP), image analysis (ImageJ), graphic design (Amira, Adobe Creative Cloud: Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign), content editing (Microsoft Office Suit: Word, Excel, PowerPoint).

Supplementary courses

2018 NEUBIAS Training School: Bioimage Analysis for your research (Szeged, Hungary)

2017 Open Science Tools, Data & Technologies for Efficient Ecological & Evolutionary Research. Mini-symposium. Workshop D1: Crash Course on Clean Code. Workshop D2: Data quality in ecological studies. NIOO-KNAW and DANS-KNAW (Amsterdam, the Netherlands)

2017 Basics in fluorescent microscopy Course. University of Amsterdam and LCAM (Amsterdam, the Netherlands)

2017 Reviewing a Scientific Paper Course. PE&RC, Wagenigen University and Research Centre (Wageningen, the Netherlands)

2016 SCENE Training School: Meta-analysis workshop (Glasgow, Schotland)

2016 Guarda Grand proposal Workshop. Basel University, University of Zürich (Switserland)

2015 Microbial Ecology Workshop. SENSE (Soest, the Netherlands)

2013 Communicating in English: Academic Writing. The Language Workshop, Uppsala University (Uppsala, Sweden)

2013 Basic Swedish 1, Basic Level A1. Uppsala University (Uppsala, Sweden)
2013  **DiaNa Annual Science Conference and workshop.** Uppsala University (Uppsala, Sweden)

2013  **Netherlands-Asia Honors Summer School 2013.** Topic: How to enhance Dutch business in Asia

2013  **International Summer School Chinese University of Hong Kong.** Successfully participated in the courses: Asian Business and Mainstreams of the Chinese Philosophical Thought (Hong Kong, Republic of China)

2012  **Course Proficiency in English.** LOI (Leidse Educational Institution).

2012  **International Biology Undergraduate Summer School.** Institute of Systematic Botany, University of Zurich (Zurich, Switzerland)

**Conferences and presentations**


2016  Quest lecture in Microbial Ecology (University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam, the Netherlands).


2013  Oral presentation. Topic: *The evolution of Lianas in the Tropical Plant Family Annonaceae.* DiaNa Annual Science Conference (Uppsala, Sweden)
Experiences

2016-2017 PERC PhD Council (Wageningen, the Netherlands). Function: secretary the PPC board and member of the education committee.

2014 Zoologischer Staatssamlung München (Munich, Germany). Three months part-time student assistant for the Entomology group in the German Barcoding of Live project; tasks: collecting tissues for DNA extraction, entering and uploading collection data into online databases, and lab work.

2009 KWPN (Royal Dutch Sport Horses) (Ermelo, The Netherlands). One month fulltime vacation employee in a range of administrative activities.
PE&RC Training and Education Statement

With the training and education activities listed below the PhD candidate has complied with the requirements set by the C.T. de Wit Graduate School for Production Ecology and Resource Conservation (PE&RC) which comprises of a minimum total of 32 ECTS (= 22 weeks of activities)

Review of literature (4.5 ECTS)
  • Signals and cues in the evolution of plant–microbe communication

Post-graduate courses (5.71 ECTS)
  • Microbial ecology; PE&RC (2015)
  • Training school: meta-analysis of plant biotic interaction; COST Action (2016)
  • Basics in fluorescent microscopy; UvA, LCAM (2017)
  • Training school: bioimage analysis for your research; NEUBIAS; COST Action (2018)

Competence strengthening / skills courses (6.17 ECTS)
  • Scientific Integrity; VU (2015)
  • Guarda summer school: writing grant proposal; Basel Universities & ETH Zürich (2016)
  • Reviewing a scientific paper; PE&RC (2017)
  • science tools, data & technologies for efficient ecological & evolutionary: mini-symposium, workshop D1: crash course on clean code, workshop D2: data quality in ecological studies; NIOO-KNAW and DANS-KNAW (2017)
  • PhD Workshop carrousel; WGS (2019)
  • Online executive coaching: getting your dream job; Experiential Insights (2019)

PE&RC Annual meetings, seminars and the PE&RC weekend (2.76 ECTS)
  • PE&RC Mid-term weekend (2016)
  • Interwoven: how science and art meet belowground (2016)
  • PE&RC Day (2016-2019)
  • PE&RC Last years weekend (2018)

Discussion groups / local seminars / other scientific meetings (4.96 ECTS)
  • Monday morning meeting with department of animal ecology and nature of life lectures (2015-2019)
  • Netherlands Annual Ecology Meeting (2015, 2016)
  • The second conference of the Netherlands Society for Evolutionary Biology (2019)

International symposia, workshops and conferences (10.24 ECTS)
  • Behavior and ecology; oral presentation (2016)
  • EMPSEB 22; oral presentation (2016)
  • ESEB Congresses; poster presentation (2017)
  • Bioimage Analysis symposium; poster presentation (2018)
  • NEAM; oral presentation (2019)
The evolution of cooperation and conflict: from theory to experimental evaluation; oral presentation (2019)

**Lecturing / supervision of practicals / tutorials (1.2 ECTS)**
- Guest lecture microbial ecology; UvA (2016)
- Lecturer human evolution (2018, 2019)
- Quest lecturer; WUR (2019)

**Supervision of MSc students (6.4 ECTS)**
- Effects of extreme weather events (flooding and soil heating conditions) on a legume-mycorrhizal system
- Single nucleotide polymorphism in an individual fungus does not influence mutualistic capabilities
- Phosphorus and nitrogen foraging of mycorrhizal fungi
Affiliations of co-authors


Paola Bonfante and Luisa Tartaglia Ciampi: Department of Life Science and Systems Biology, University of Turin, Turin, Italy.

William K. Cornwell: Ecology and Evolution Research Centre, School of Biological, Earth and Environmental Sciences, University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia.

Mark A. Hink and Marten Postma: Section of Molecular Cytology and van Leeuwenhoek Centre for Advanced Microscopy, Swammerdam Institute for Life Sciences, University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam, Netherlands.

Habacuc Flores-Moreno and Amy E. Zanne: Department of Biological Sciences George Washington University, Washington, USA.

Ronald Noë: Faculté Psychologie, Université de Strasbourg, Strasbourg, France.

Jeff R. Powell: Hawkesbury Institute for the Environment, Western Sydney University, Richmond, Australia.

Ian Sanders: Department of Ecology and Evolution, Université de Lausanne, Lausanne, Switzerland.


Bapu Vaitla: School of Public Health, Harvard University Cambridge, USA.
