

Curriculum Vitae - Veronica Zuffi



Personal Information

Name: Veronica Zuffi

Address: Via Lelli 10/2, 40067, Pianoro (BO), Italy

Email: vero.zuffi@gmail.com

Nationality: Italian

Date of Birth: 09/10/1995

Education and Training

PhD in Agricultural, Environmental and Food Science and Technology

Jan 2022 – Jan 2025

Department of Agricultural and Food Sciences (DISTAL), University of Bologna

Thesis: Myco-conversion of agricultural wastes into new bioproducts to improve the biodiversity of agricultural ecosystems

Master's Degree in Agricultural Science and Technology

Sep 2018 – Oct 2020

School of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine, University of Bologna

Specialization: Protection of plants and agricultural products

Grade: 110/110 cum laude

Bachelor's Degree in Agricultural Technology

Sep 2015 – Oct 2018

School of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine, University of Bologna

Fields of Study: Plant production and protection, agricultural chemistry, rural engineering, economics, animal husbandry

Grade: 110/110 cum laude

High School Diploma in Arts (Architecture and Design)

2009 – 2014

Liceo Artistico F. Arcangeli, Bologna

Grade: 88/100

Research Activities

- Valorization of agricultural waste through mushroom cultivation
 - ATR-FTIR, Raman, and SERS spectroscopic analysis on substrates and fruiting bodies
 - Extraction of chitin and chitosan; production and testing of nanoparticles
 - Reuse of spent mushroom substrate in anaerobic digestion for biogas production
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International Experience

- **Jul 2023 – Jan 2024:** CSIC Institute (IEM-CSIC), Madrid – *SERS application on mushroom biomolecules*
 - **Jun 2024:** EIT RM PhD BalticTeach Summer School, Riga, Latvia
 - **May–Jun 2022:** SHARQ Summer School, Samarkand, Uzbekistan – *Environment and Archaeology for Sustainable Development*
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Workshops

- **Feb 2024** – Organizer: *SERS & fungal biodiversity workshop*, DISTAL, Bologna
 - **Jun 2022** – Participant: *Drawing Voids* urban redevelopment workshop, Cesena
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Supervision Activities

- Co-supervisor of theses in Bachelor and Master programs on:
 - Bioremediation of heavy metal-contaminated sites
 - Chitosan nanoparticles from agro-waste
 - Mushroom cultivation on grape pomace
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Scientific Publications

- **Jun 2025** – Puliga F.; Zuffi V.; Zambonelli A.; Miškovský P.; Francioso O.; Sanchez-Cortes S. Analysis of Ergothioneine Using Surface-Enhanced Raman Scattering: Detection in Mushrooms «CHEMOSENSORS», 13, 213.
- **Feb 2025** – Zuffi V.; Puliga F.; Mercatante D.; Rodriguez-Estrada M.T.; Sanchez-Cortes S.; Zambonelli A.; Francioso O. Conversion of grape pomace into fungal biomass: a study of *Pleurotus* cultivation for a sustainable agro-residue management. «CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL TECHNOLOGIES IN AGRICULTURE», 12, 22.

- **Dec 2024** – Francioso O.; Nardi S.; Schiavon M.; Castellani D.; Ferrari E.; Rodriguez-Estrada M.T.; Della Lucia M.C.; Zuffi V.; Ertani A. Mitigation of salt stress in *Lactuca sativa* L. var. gentile rossa using microalgae as priming agents. «PLANTS»
- **Jun 2024** – Righini H.; Tedeschi P.; Maietti A.; Francioso O.; Quintana A.M.; Zuffi V.; Ciurli A.; Roberti R. Enhanced growth and nutritional properties of radish sprouts using extracts from *Anabaena minutissima* and *Sargassum vulgare*. «ACS AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY», 2024, 4 (7), 700-710.
- **Jul 2023** – Righini, H; Cetrullo, S; Bissoli, I; Zuffi, V; Quintana, AM; Flamigni, F; Francioso, O; Roberti, R, Evaluating *Ecklonia maxima* water-soluble polysaccharides as a growth promoter of tomato seedlings and resistance inducer to Fusarium wilt, «SCIENTIA HORTICULTURAE», 2023, 317, Article number: 112071, pp. 1 –11.
- **Jun 2023** – Puliga, Federico; Zuffi, Veronica; Baldo, David; Cavatorta, Daniel; Zambonelli, Alessandra; Francioso, Ornella; Sanchez- Cortes, Santiago. *Cladosporium cladosporioides* (strain Clc/1): a candidate for low-density polyethylene degradation, «CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL TECHNOLOGIES IN AGRICULTURE», 2023, 10, pp. 1 – 11.
- **Mar 2023** – Righini, H; Francioso, O; Quintana, AM; Pinchetti, JLG; Zuffi, V; Cappelletti, E; Roberti, R, New insight on tomato seed priming with *Anabaena minutissima* phycobiliproteins in relation to Rhizoctonia solani root rot resistance and seedling growth promotion, «PHYTOPARASITICA», 2023, 51, pp. 763 – 781.
- **Mar 2023** – Zuffi, Veronica; Puliga, Federico; Zambonelli, Alessandra; Trincone, Lorenzo; Sanchez-Cortes, Santiago; Francioso, Ornella, Sustainable Management of Anaerobic Digestate: From Biogas Plant to Full-Scale Cultivation of *Pleurotus ostreatus*. «AGRONOMY», 2023, 13, pp. 950 - 950
- **Dec 2022** – Puliga, Federico; Zuffi, Veronica; Zambonelli, Alessandra; Francioso, Ornella; Sanchez-Cortes, Santiago, Spectroscopic analysis of mushrooms by surface-enhanced Raman scattering (SERS), «CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL TECHNOLOGIES IN AGRICULTURE», 2022, 9, pp. 1 – 10.

Conferences & Presentations

- **September 2025** – Participation at the XLIII SICA Congress, “The Contribution of the Agricultural Chemistry to Healthy and Resilient Agroecosystems and to the One Health Vision” Padova, Italy. Poster Session. Title: *In situ detection of ergothioneine in edible fungi using Surface-Enhanced Raman spectroscopy (SERS): a tool for nutritional assessment.*

- **September 2024** – Oral presentation at the XLII SICA Congress, “The Contribution of Agricultural Chemistry to the Global Challenge for Sustainable Crop Production and Preservation of Ecosystem Services,” Alghero, Italy. Session 4: Climate-smart Approaches for Sustainable Food Production. Title: *Utilization of Grape Pomace as an Alternative Substrate for Sustainable Mushroom Cultivation*.
- **May 2024** – Oral presentation at the Centennial Celebration and Congress of the International Union of Soil Science (IUSS), Florence, Italy. Session: Management of Soil Chemistry, Micro- and Nanoplastics in Soil Ecosystems. Title: *Detecting Early LDPE Biodegradation Using FT-IR and Raman Spectroscopies*.
- **September 2023** – Oral presentation at the XIX Congress of European Mycologists, Perugia, Italy. Session: Fungi in Bioeconomy and Circular Economy. Title: *Anaerobic Digestate: A Promising Growing Substrate for Full-scale Cultivation of Pleurotus Ostreatus*.
- **September 2022** – Oral presentation at the XL SICA Congress, “Conciliating Sustainability, Resilience, and Food Quality: New Challenges for 2030 Agriculture,” Department of Agriculture, Food, and Environment, University of Pisa, Italy. Session 1: Facing Climate Change: Effects and Challenges on Natural and Agroforestry Systems. Title: *Fungi and Anaerobic Digestate: A Promising Relationship*.
- **July 2022** – Proceedings of the International Conference on Agriculture, Food Science, and Aquaculture, Bangkok. Hillary Righini, Ornella Francioso, Serenella Nardi, Diego Pizzeghello, Antera Martel Quintana, Veronica Zuffi, Nicola Mancioppi, Roberta Roberti, *Phycobiliproteins from the Cyanobacterium Anabaena Minutissima for Rhizoctonia Solani Control and Tomato Growth Promotion*, in: Agriculture and Horticulture & Food Science and Aquaculture, London, United Research Forum, 2022, pp. 1 – 1.

Professional Experience

Research Fellow

Jan 2025 – Present

Department of Agricultural and Food Sciences (DISTAL), Bologna

Activity: Carrying out research activities within the project "Advanced Analytical Techniques for Investigating Organic Carbon in Deep Soils."

Farm Worker

Mar – Sep 2021

NUNHEMS ITALY S.R.L., Via Ghiarone 2, Sant'Agata Bolognese (BO)

Cultivation of vegetables and cereals, wholesale trade of seeds and vegetable plants for the

canning industry, and production of vegetable seeds.

Activity: Practical support in the development and evaluation of variety trials on horticultural crops such as tomato, cucumber, watermelon, and carrot.

Curricular Internship

Dec 2019 – Feb 2020

BIOTEC SYS S.R.L., Via Tacconi 59, Bologna

A biotechnology company in the environmental, bioenergy, agricultural, and food sectors.

Activity: Acquisition and application of statistical tools for data analysis from field experiments.

Curricular Internship

Mar – Jul 2018

Agri 2000 Net Srl, Via Marabini 14, Castel Maggiore (BO)

A service and research company for the agri-food and urban green sectors.

Activity: Field identification of major fungal diseases and pests of pome and stone fruits.

Development of a protocol for efficacy trials and application of international guidelines for field trial execution. Support for field surveys.

Agricultural Worker

Sep – Oct 2018

School of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine, DipSA, UNIBO, Viale Fanin 40-50

University experimental fields.

Activity: Tasks included the harvesting of apples, kiwi, and walnuts; fruit selection department duties.

Aerial silks Instructor

Sep 2021 – Jun 2023

ART GRAVITY S.R.L. S.S.D., Via Rocciolo 11, 41124, Modena

Amateur Sports Association

Activity: Physical training and introduction to aerial silks.

Rhythmic Gymnastics Instructor

Sep 2013 – Jun 2017

Polisportiva Pontevecchio, Via della Battaglia 9, Bologna (BO)

Amateur Sports Association

Activity: Physical training and introduction to rhythmic gymnastics.

Awards and Recognitions

2020 – Merit Award

University of Bologna

Merit Award for Civic Engagement and Active Citizenship Practice

2020 – Master's Thesis Award

Association of Graduates in Agricultural, Food, and Environmental Sciences of Bologna
Award for Master's Thesis 2020

2020 – Excellence in Studies Award

Municipality of Pianoro
Merit Award for Earning a Master's Degree with Full Honors

2018 – Excellence in Studies Award

Municipality of Pianoro
Merit Award for Earning a Bachelor's Degree with Full Honors

Languages

Italian – **Native**

English – **Advanced (C1 IELTS, British Council, 2020)**

Spanish – **Intermediate**

Additional Training

2021 – Qualification Certificate in Aerial Acrobatics Instructor

AICS
Acquisition of Basic Skills for Teaching Aerial Acrobatics

2022 – BLSD Training Course

Italian Resuscitation Council (IRC)
Theoretical and Practical Training in First Aid and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)
Techniques, and Use of the Defibrillator (AED)

2015 – Volunteer Sports Operator

UISP
Acquisition of Basic Skills for Teaching Physical and Motor Activities of Various Disciplines to Children, Adolescents, and Elderly Individuals. Training in Group Management, First Aid Procedures, and Learning about Citizenship Rights.

Skills and Competences

Relational:

Excellent communication, collaboration, and conflict management skills

Organizational:

Creative mindset, teamwork-oriented, flexible under change, goal-driven

Technical:

Proficient in Microsoft Office, Internet tools, and R statistical software

Driver's License:

Category B – Own vehicle

Other Interests

Passionate about botany and ecology. Since 2018, I have been actively involved as a volunteer guide for FAI (Fondo Ambiente Italiano), conducting visits to parks, gardens, and natural areas.

Since 2024, together with other PhD students, I have been involved in organizing the "Sips of Science" event series at the Department of Agricultural and Food Sciences (DISTAL) at the University of Bologna.

I have always been passionate about artistic drawing, creative recycling, and manual crafts.

An avid sports enthusiast, I practiced Rhythmic Gymnastics at a competitive level for 10 years with the Polisportiva Pontevecchio in Bologna.

Since 2015, I have practiced Aerial silks at the Eden Park Zone Association in San Lazzaro. Since 2019, I have been part of the circus collective 'Eden Circus,' contributing to the creation of performances.

I also volunteer as a waitress and bartender at social events.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Verónica' followed by a stylized monogram.