

## Mélanie TCHOUMBOU

### CONTACT INFORMATION

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### EDUCATION AND ACADEMIC DEGREE

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2016-2021 PhD degree: Animal Biology, option Parasitology, University of Dschang, Dschang, Cameroon  
2010-2014 Master degree: Animal Biology, option Parasitology. University of Dschang, Dschang, Cameroon  
2007-2010 Bachelor degree: Ecology, Biology of Organisms. University of Dschang, Dschang, Cameroon  
2005-2007 High School Education: GCE Advanced Level from the Government Bilingual High School of Mbouda, Cameroon.

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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2022.11- present Postdoctoral fellow at the P. B. Šivickis Laboratory of Parasitology. Nature Research Centre, Vilnius, Lithuania  
2020-2022.10 Biodiversity Initiative affiliate ([www.biodiversityinitiative.org](http://www.biodiversityinitiative.org)) and Sustainable Cocoa Manager in Cameroon.  
2019-2020 Research assistant in ornithological and ecological data collections and analyses in Cameroon  
2014-2015 Volunteer teacher, Life and Earth Sciences at GBHS Mbouda, Cameroon.  
2010 -2014 Volunteer assistant for practical work on Parasitology and Embryology at University of Dschang, Cameroon.

### RESEARCH INTERESTS

I am an early career researcher filled with passion and eager to learn new approaches in the area of Parasitology. After Master degree, I enrolled as PhD student under the Peer-project 4-360, funded by the National Science Foundation. I studied “the impact of deforestation on bird communities and their haemosporidian parasites in a tropical rainforest of Cameroon”, and defended my PhD thesis in January 2021. I had the opportunity to learn about thousand of rainforest birds, how to capture them erecting mist nets, identify and bleed. I also performed basic microscopic identification of avian haemosporidian parasites, Nested PCR, electrophoresis, and phylogenetic analyses.

My current postdoctoral research is about Exo-erythrocytic development during neglected avian haemoproteosis in African migrants of the families Sylviidae and Acrocephalidae. This will help to gain new knowledge and improve my skills in more advance microscopic

examination of blood and histological preparations, DNA extraction, PCR, sequencing, phylogeny, cytology, and chromogenic in situ hybridization (CISH).

## **PUBLICATIONS**

*Scientific articles published in journals (books), indexed in „Clarivate Analytics Web of Science“ database (with citation index):*

1. **Tchoumbou MA**, Mayi MP, Malange EN, Foncha D, Kowo C, Fru-cho J, Tchuinkam T, Awah-Ndukum J, Dorazio R, Anong DN, Comel A, Sehgal RN. (2020). Effect of deforestation on prevalence of avian haemosporidian parasites and mosquito abundance in a tropical rainforest of Cameroon. *International Journal for Parasitology*, 50(1):63-73. doi: 10.1016/j.ijpara.2019.10.006.
2. **Tchoumbou MA**, Malange EN, Tiku RC, Tibab B, Fru-Cho J, Tchuinkam T, Awah-Ndukum J, Anong DN, Sehgal RN. (2020). Response of Understory Bird Feeding Groups to Deforestation Gradient in a Tropical Rainforest of Cameroon. *Tropical Conservation Science*, 13: 1-12. doi: 10.1177/1940082920906970.
3. Jarrett C, Smith T, Tabe RC, Ferreira D, **Tchoumbou MA**, Malange NF, Wolfe J, Brzeski K, Welch AJ, Hanna R, Powell L. (2021). Bird communities in African cocoa agroforestry are diverse but lack specialized insectivores. *Journal of applied ecology*, 58(6):1237-1247. doi: 10.1111/1365-2664.13864.
4. Jarrett C, Powell LN, Claire, Tabe R, **Tchoumbou MA**, Helm B. (2021). Moults of overwintering Wood Warblers *Phylloscopus sibilatrix* in an annual-cycle perspective. *Journal of ornithology*, 162(3):645-653. doi: 10.1007/s10336-021-01859-z. PMID: 34722109, PMCID: PMC8550331.
5. Bamou R, Nematchoua Z, Lontsi-Demano M, Ningahi L, **Tchoumbou MA**, Defo-Talom B, Mayi MP, Tchuinkam T. (2021). Performance assessment of a widely used rapid diagnostic test CareStart (TM) compared to microscopy for the detection of *Plasmodium* in asymptomatic patients in the Western region of Cameroon. *Heliyon*, 7(2). doi: 10.1016/j.heliyon.2021.e06271.

*Other reviewed scientific publications (books, books' chapters, collections of articles, articles, textbooks and etc.):*

1. Malange NF, Anong DN, **Tchoumbou MA**, Fru-cho J, Tabe TR, Tibab B, Sehgal RN. 2020. Effect of deforestation on avian parasitic co-infections in recaptured birds from an African tropical rainforest of Cameroon. *Nanotechnology and Applications*, 2(1):1-13.
2. Dzepe D, Nana P, Tchuinkam T, Meutchieye F, Lontsi M, **Tchoumbou MA** and Kimpara JM (2019). Production and Valorization of Maggot Meal: Sustainable Source of Proteins for Indigenous Chicks. *Asian Journal of Research in Animal and Veterinary Sciences*, 3(3): 1 -9.

## **PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS**

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- 2022.11-2024.10 Postdoctoral fellow in the project “Exo-erythrocytic development during neglected avian haemoproteosis” funded by Lithuanian Research Council (Grant no. P-PD-22-006, principal investigator Dr. Gediminas Valkiūnas, Nature Research Centre, Vilnius).
- 2020-2022.10 In-country Manager of the group project “Sustainable Cocoa Farming in the Congo Rainforest” funded by the Waterloo Foundation (Project ID 919-3934, principal investigator Dr. Luke Powell, University of Glasgow, UK).
- 2016-2019 Junior Researcher in the group project “Using geospatial tools to investigate how deforestation affects the transmission of malaria in birds” funded by the National Science Foundation (Peer-Project 4-360, principal investigator Dr. Anong Damian, University of Buea, Cameroon).

## **INTERNSHIP AND TRAINING**

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- 2018.04 Workshop on Bioinformatics “Sequencing and phylogenetic trees”, University of Buea, Cameroon.
- 2017.05 Workshop on Mathematical Models of Climate Variability, Environmental Change and Infectious Diseases in Abdus Salam ICTP, Trieste-Italy.
- 2017.02 Cooperative research training program for young researchers in Nihon University, Japan.
- 2016.07 PIRE Professional Workshop Training on statistical analyses using R software in Yaoundé, Cameroon.

## **PARTICIPATION IN SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCES**

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### **International scientific conferences:**

1. **Tchoumbou MA**, Mayi MP, Malange EN, Foncha D, Kowo C, Fru-cho J, Tchuinkam T, Awah-Ndukum J, Dorazio R, Anong DN, Comel A, Sehgal RN. (2020). Effect of deforestation on prevalence of avian haemosporidian parasites and mosquito abundance in a tropical rainforest of Cameroon - 5<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Malaria and blood Parasites of Wildlife, Bielefeld, 05-08 September 2022. Online
2. Online conference on Sweet Sustainability: Cocoa Agroforestry Advantages organized by the Smithsonian Institution, USA, 18-20 May 2021.
3. Conference on “Impact of Environmental Changes on Infectious Diseases” in Abdus Salam ICTP, Trieste-Italy, May 2017.

### **National scientific conferences:**

1. International Cocoa Agroforestry Symposium “Bridging the gap between Science, Development and Policy”, Yaoundé, Cameroon. 10-12 March 2020.

2. **Tchoumbou MA**, Malange EN, Tiku RC, Tibab B, Fru-Cho J, Tchuinkam T, Awah-Ndukum J, Anong DN, Sehgal RN. Response of Understory Bird Feeding Groups to Deforestation Gradient in a Tropical Rainforest of Cameroon - Cameroon Bioscience Society (CBS) Conference “Bioscience Research for Cameroon’s Emergence”, University of Buea, Cameroon, November 2018. Poster presentation

## **PARTICIPATION IN THE STUDY PROCESS**

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### ***Mentoring of Master students:***

Mbaiondoun Nerade Serge	Master student, project “Prevalence and intensity of malaria infections in primary schools in the locality of Beïnamar, Tchad	2022-2023
Nematchoua-Weyou Zidedine	Master student, project “Malaria determinants among internally displaced persons from Northwest and Southwest region of Cameroon”	2019-2020
Tabé Regine Claire	Master student, project “Seasonal variation of haemosporidian parasites in three bird species ( <i>Andropadus latirostris</i> , <i>Cyanomitra olivacea</i> and <i>Bleda notatus</i> ) in talangaye rainforest”	2016-2017

## **OTHERS**

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1. 3<sup>th</sup> Conservation Action Research Network grant for the project “Haemosporidian parasites of insectivorous pest-eating birds in Cameroonian cocoa farms”. 2022.12, [www.conservationactionresearch.net](http://www.conservationactionresearch.net).
2. 2<sup>nd</sup> Conservation Action Research Network grant for the project “Which native shade trees will attract pest-eating birds to Cameroonian cocoa farms?”. 2021.12, [www.conservationactionresearch.net](http://www.conservationactionresearch.net).
3. 1<sup>st</sup> Conservation Action Research Network grant for the project “Effect deforestation on bird species diversity and abundance in Talangaye rainforest, Cameroon”. 2016.12, [www.conservationactionresearch.net](http://www.conservationactionresearch.net).
4. Idea Wild small equipment grant. 2016.10, <https://ideawild.org>.