

Khulekani Cyprian Mbatha

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I graduated with my MSc in Botany (Distinction) from the University of Zululand. I have outstanding knowledge of scientific writing, research, and biotechnology. Some years of experience predominantly in the academic sector, and research. An adaptable and versatile team leader and a teacher. Energetic, self-motivated, and hardworking individual with a passion for people and environment developmental programs. Fast learner and a good listener who easily adapt to any situation or work environment, always willing to learn new skills and share my potential.

PERSONAL PROFILE

Age: 29
Date of Birth: 1994/08/04
Nationality: South African
Gender: Male
Cell: +27 76 834 8691
Email: mbathakc@yahoo.com
Driver's license: C1
Home Language: Zulu
Other Languages: English (fluent), Xhosa (fair), Swati and Pedi (poor)

EDUCATION

2018-2021, Master of Science in Botany (Distinction), University of Zululand, South Africa

- Plant Physiology and Biochemistry

2017, Bachelor of Science Honours in Botany, University of Zululand, South Africa

- General Botany and Environmental management

2014-2016, Bachelor of Science in Botany and Geography, University of Zululand, South Africa

- Botany and Geography

2008-2012, National Senior Certificate, Mbonwa High

- IsiZulu (HL), English (FAL), Mathematics, Physical science, Life sciences, Geography, LO

WORK EXPERIENCE

2023, Current, Plant Biochemists Intern, Forestry and Agricultural Biotechnology Institute

- preparing plant samples for extraction of organic molecules.
- extracting organic molecules using different techniques.
- analysing metabolites using liquid and gas chromatography coupled with mass spectrometry.
- analysing and interpreting analytical data using different software solutions and metabolomics platforms.

- Microbes' media preparations, culturing, DNA extractions, PCR, DNA sequencing, Insects, and pest rearing.
- Planting and harvesting

2021-2021, Translator, Kasturi Palesa Consulting (Pty) Ltd

- Translate a PAIA document from English to isiZulu.

2020–2021, Graduate Academic Assistant and Mentor, University of Zululand

- Mentored approximately 100's individuals on general management of one's social life and studies.
- Developing relationships between undergraduate students, tutorship, teaching and learning, lecturers, and officials as well as general employees of the university.
- Create community unity and easy interaction and understanding of the University setting.
- Attending to students' academic, social, and sometimes private matters and requests through giving developmental, psychological, and mental interventions for commutable results.
- Helped 100's to register smoothly and get accommodations, making appropriate CAO change of mind, Course and Module modifications.

2017–2019, Tutor and Facilitator, University of Zululand, SA

- Reviewing classroom or curricula topics and assignments of 100's students from 1st to 4th level in several natural sciences modules (Botany, Geography, Basic Chemistry, and Introductory physics and zoology).
- Assisting students with homework, projects, test preparation, research, and other academic tasks.
- Working with students to help them understand key concepts, especially those learned in the classroom.
- Demonstrated in practical laboratory and field experiments.
- Trained 100's on social awareness, critical thinking, academic reading and writing, online learning interventions for the COVID-19 pandemic, personal and project management as well as leadership skills.
- Presented at various forums, academic, and governmental institutions, companies, and youth organizations, to skill or create awareness of socioeconomic trends and generational responsibilities.

2016-2016, Examination Assistant, KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education

- Provide quality checks, monitoring, and strategic interventions using statistics and quantitative approaches.
- Document management and data management of portfolios according to centers, circuits, and districts
- Minimising risk and damage to academic records.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND LEADERSHIP

Awards and Achievements

ABSA and Services Sector Education and Training Authority Bursary (SETA) (2020 and 2021)

National Research Foundation (Scholarship)	(2017 to 2019)
Best Performance Award from the Department of Botany (UNIZULU)	(2016)
Merit Bursary of the University of Zululand	(2015)

Student Leadership

Chairperson of Green Campus Initiative and University Hockey Club	(2019 to 2020)
Chief Academic Officer FSAE Student Council	(2018 to 2019)
Treasurer FSAE Student Council	
Chairperson of the Student Society	(2015 to 2016)
Deputy Secretary and Academic Officer Student Society	(2014 to 2015)

TRAINING AND COURSES

Current, Phyto-sanitation and Biocontrol, University of Pretoria, FABI

2023, Writing in the Sciences (online), Stanford University

2023, Best Practice Farming for a Sustainable 2050 (online), University of Western Australia

KEY SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE AREAS:

- Preparing plant samples for extraction of organic molecules: Liquid Nitrogen handling.
- Extracting organic molecules using different techniques.
- Analysing metabolites using liquid and gas chromatography coupled with mass spectrometry.
- Analysing and interpreting analytical data (software solutions and metabolomics platforms).
- Data collection and management, curation, visualization, and conceptualization
- Oral data capturing, report writing, administrative, GLP, sampling, interviewing, plant taxonomic identification and classification, herbarium management, and microscopic operations.
- Computer Literacy: Microsoft packages, GenStat SA and SASA, Intro to R
- Sustainable and Organic farming, regenerative agriculture, and research design.
- Teacher and organizer: Vocational teaching in a range of academic and environmental platforms.
- Social: Time management, presentation, and interpersonal skills.
- Leadership. Capacitation and inclusion of specific women, youth, and differently-abled communities.

PUBLICATIONS

Mbatha, KC and De Wet, H. The importance of alien plants in the well-being of rural communities in northern Maputaland, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. South African Journal of Botany. DOI:10.1016/J.SAJB.2018.02.080

Mbatha, K.C.; Mchunu, C.N.; Mavengahama, S.; Ntuli, N.R. Effect of Poultry and Goat Manures on the Nutrient Content of *Sesamum alatum* Leafy Vegetables. Applied Science. 2021, 11, 11933. <https://doi.org/10.3390/app112411933>. Citations: 4

Mbatha, K.C.; Mavengahama, S and Ntuli N.R. Potential of domesticating the underutilized multipurpose wild leafy vegetable, *Sesamum alatum*, under low input organic cropping systems. South African Journal of Botany. <http://doi.org/10.1016/j.sajb.2022.05.009>. Citations: 1

References are available if required.