

SOLO ARMAN PERALTA MERCENE

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EDUCATION

Master of Science in Entomology Expected May 2025

Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI, USA

Advisors: Dr. David Mota-Sanchez & Dr. Erich Grotewold

Bachelor of Science in Agriculture Major in Entomology June 2018

University of the Philippines Los Baños, Laguna, Philippines

Thesis: "Preliminary survey of assassin bugs (Hemiptera: Reduviidae) of Mount Makiling and vicinity"

Advisor: Dr. Sheryl A. Yap

EXTENSION SERVICES

Resource Person September 2019 - June 2023

Department of Agriculture & Agricultural Training Institute - MIMAROPA

- ❖ Trained over 300 farmers across Oriental and Occidental Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon, and Palawan in the Philippines on integrated pest management of crops such as rice, corn, vegetables, and fruit trees, among others.
- ❖ Organized and supervised pest management strategies targeting fall armyworm (*Spodoptera frugiperda*), brown planthopper (*Nilaparvata lugens*), and onion armyworm (*Spodoptera exigua*).

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Investigations aimed at enhancing pest management measures for fall armyworms and studying the taxonomy of Philippine Reduviidae.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Visiting Researcher August-September 2018 & May-June 2023

Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum, Singapore

- ❖ Taxonomy of Philippine Reduviidae
- ❖ Gut analysis of *Sycanus* sp. (Hemiptera: Reduviidae) as potential biological control for fall armyworm

Data Manager January 2020 - June 2023

Bureau of Plant Industry, Philippines

- ❖ "Pest Risk Identification and Management (PRIME) Project"
- ❖ "Development of Early Warning System and Database Management of Corn Arthropod Pests and Diseases"

Field Enumerator June 2019

Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture, Philippines

- ❖ Consumer preference survey under component I (expanded value chain analysis and market study) of the project "Upgrading the Calamansi Value Chain Towards Improving the Calamansi Industry of Oriental Mindoro".

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“Preliminary survey of assassin bugs (Hemiptera: Reduviidae) of Mount Makiling and vicinity”, Biodiversity Conservation Society of the Philippines Symposium. Philippines, 2018.

GRANTS

Bureau of Agricultural Research, Philippines January 2022 - January 2023
“Establishment of Mass Production Facility of Various Biological Control Agents in DA-Integrated Laboratory Division, Naujan Oriental Mindoro”, \$52,924.05

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Agriculturist I September 2019 - June 2023
Regional Crop Protection Center - MIMAROPA

- ❖ Lead entomologist in charge of the management of insect pests of rice, corn, vegetables, and fruit trees among others in the MIMAROPA region, Philippines.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- ❖ The Philippine Association of Entomologists, Inc.
- ❖ Gamma Sigma Delta - The Honor Society of Agriculture UPLB Chapter
- ❖ Biodiversity Conservation Society of the Philippines
- ❖ University of the Philippines Entomological Society
- ❖ University of the Philippines Mindoreños

SCHOLARSHIPS

- ❖ Fulbright-Philippine Agriculture Scholarship Program June 2023
- ❖ Bureau of Agricultural Research Scholarship Grant August 2016
- ❖ Foundation for Philippine Progress Inc. Scholarship August 2015

LANGUAGES

Filipino
Native

English
TOELF: 95 (Competent)

REFERENCES

Dr. Cristina M. Sagun, Center Chief
Regional Crop Protection Center
MIMAROPA
darcpc4b@gmail.com

Dr. Wei Song Hwang, Curator
Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum,
National University of Singapore
weisong@nus.edu.sg

Dr. Luis Rey I. Velasco,
Former Dean & University Chancellor
Institute of Weed Science, Entomology, and
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Dr. Sherly A. Yap, Director
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