

Madrid, 20 November 2019

I have known Iris Montero for more than 6 years, when she was a student in several subjects I taught in the B.Sc. in Biology, standing out in all of them. As a result, it did not take too long she paid his attention to the research in the Botany department.

In the third course of his degree, she offered her collaboration in the projects undertaken by the department staff, focusing in those related to the systematics of vascular plants. We trained her in the most variable tasks, even when some of them are not pleasurable, but hard for a beginner. Thus, she developed the competences needed to face a research in Botany, and she also found out the troubles derived from working with Tropical plants.

In her Final Degree Project, she studied an especially complex group of Euphorbiaceae from Tropical Africa; the academic results could not be better, as she was awarded with honours. Later on, she enrolled in a Master in Biodiversity and she did her Master thesis under my direction. In this occasion, she pursued a more ambitious research and presented a revision for the genus *Acalypha* (Euphorbiaceae) of Madagascar, obtaining an upper-high mark. This work was the starting point for her ongoing PhD dissertation.

During the last years she has been involved in six peer-reviewed papers, and another one is on course. This has given Iris advanced writing and communication skills, that together with her abilities in taxonomy techniques and her initiative, prepares her well to take advanced studies of Plants Sciences. To conclude, I have no doubts that her experience and academic record are strong enough to achieve good results in a in any field of Botanic research, and I have no hesitation in providing my strongest recommendation of Iris Montero's candidacy in order to get an IATP grant.



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