

Curriculum vitae

Remmy W. Kasili

Address

Jomo Kenyatta university of Agriculture and Technology,
Institute of Biotechnology Research,
P.O. BOX 62000-00200,
NAIROBI.
rkasili@gmail.com

Research Interests

1. Functional genomics of mosquito salivary gland development
2. Molecular characterization of orphan traditional vegetables and their improvement

Education

Ph.D in Plant Biology- Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge LA, December, 2008.
Concentrations: Plant Developmental Genetics, Cell Cycle, and Molecular Biology

MSc. In plant Physiology and Biochemistry, Kenyatta University, Nairobi Kenya 1998

B.ed (Sc). Bachelor of Education (Science). Botany (Major), Zoology (minor) and Education. Upper second class honors. Kenyatta University 1990.

Professional activities

Visiting Fellow, National Institutes of Health (NIH/NICHHD). June 2009 to January 2012.
Project. Cell cycle regulation in Drosophila S2 cells under the guidance of Dr. Mary Lilly

Instructor Louisiana State University Dept. of Biological Sciences: Spring 2009
Course: Introductory biology for Non-majors (Biology 1001)

Teaching Assistant: Louisiana State University, Dept. of Biological sciences. Fall 2005
Fall 2008
Course: Principles of Genetics

Research Assistant: Louisiana State University, Dept. of Biological Sciences Fall 2004 to
Spring 2005
Course: Principles of Genetics

Teaching Assistant: Louisiana State University, Dept. of Biological sciences. Fall 2002-
to Spring 2004
Course: Principles of Genetics

Acting director (Officer in-Charge): Institute for Biotechnology Research (IBR) JKUAT
1999-2000

Research assistant: Institute for Biotechnology Research (IBR) Jomo Kenyatta University
of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) 1995-2000.

Professional activities (continued)

High school teacher: Taught Mathematics and Biology 1990-1994

Honors and awards

2004-2006. Louisiana State University Biograds' award.

2004. Sigma Xi research award.

2003. Louisiana State University Biograds' award.

2000-2002. PhD Fulbright Scholar.

2000. Rockefeller Foundation grant US\$ 50,000.00

1999. DSE fellowship to train in Plant Biotechnology in Germany

1998. UNESCO fellowship to train in Plant Biotechnology, Pretoria South Africa

1994 -1995. Kenya government scholarship to pursue MSc at Kenyatta University

Publications

1. **Kasili, R.**, Huang, C., Simmons, A., Zhou, J., Faulk, C.D., Walker, J.D., Hülkamp, Larkin, J.C. 2011. Branchless Trichomes (*BLT*) links cell shape and cell cycle control in *Arabidopsis thaliana* trichomes. *Development* 138:2379-2388

2. **Kasili, R.**, Jason D. Walker, L. Alice Simmons, Jing Zhou, Lieven DeVeylder and John C. Larkin. 2010. Siamese cooperates with the CDH1-like protein CCS52A1 to Establish Endoreplication in Arabidopsis Thaliana Trichomes. *Genetics* 185: 257–268

3. Jonathan Bramssiepe, Katja Wester, Christina Weinl, Farshad Roodbarkelan, **Remmy Kasili**, John C. Larkin, Martin Hülkamp and Arp Schnittger. Endoreplication controls cell fate maintenance. 2010. *PLoS Genetics* 6(6) e1000996.

4. Brininstool, G., **Kasili, R.**, Simmons, L. A. Kirik, V., Hülkamp, M. and Larkin, J. C. Constitutive Expressor of Pathogenesis-Related Genes5 affects cell wall biogenesis and trichome development. *BMC Plant Biology* 2008, 8:58

Manuscripts in preparation

1. **Kasili, R.**, Wersto, R. and Lilly, M.A.

Transcriptome changes during the transition from mitosis to endoreplication in *Drosophila* S2 cells

2. **Kasili, R.**, Wambui, L., Imbuga, M and Kahangi, E. Somatic embryogenesis and plant regeneration in sweetpotato depends on genotype, the concentration of 2,4-D in the culture medium and the period of incubation on callus induction medium.

In-house reports

1. Inhibition of selected bacteria strains and Human Immunodeficiency virus(HIV) by Miti Shamba (crude plant extracts) (Honors thesis)
2. The effect of intercropping and monocropping on chlorophyll a, chlorophyll b total chlorophyll and crop productivity in maize and beans
3. Plant regeneration via direct and indirect organogenesis in some cultivars of the sweet potato (*Ipomoea batatas*) (L) Lam. (MSc. thesis)
4. The need to return to our traditional food crops(I) the case of sweet potato
5. The need to return to our traditional food crops (II) the case of cassava

Conference Presentations

2002-2006. Presented a poster annually at the annual Biograds Graduate student symposium Dept of Biological sciences LSU. **Kasili,R.**, Simmons, L.A. and Larkin, J.C.

2006. Plant Biology Boston Massachusetts USA.

Presented a poster. Isolation and Characterization of two *siamese* phenotypic modifiers. **Kasili, R. W.**, Walker J. and Larkin, J.C

2005. Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and technology 5th scientific conference. Presented a poster. Towards developing an efficient *in vitro* regeneration system via somatic embryogenesis in some sweet potato cultivars grown in Kenya. **Kasili, R. W** and Wambui Lillian

2005. 16th International Arabidopsis Meeting Madison, Wisconsin USA

Presented a poster. Isolation and Characterization of two *siamese* phenotypic modifiers. **Kasili, R. W.**, Walker J. and Larkin, J.C

2004. ASPB Meeting at World Disney Orlando Florida.

Presented a poster. Characterization of *siamese* phenotypic modifiers. **Kasili, R. W.**, Walker, J. and Larkin, J.C.

2003. ASPB Southern Section meeting at Lafayette Louisiana

Presented a talk. Isolation and characterization of *siamese* phenotypic modifiers. **Kasili, R. W.**, Walker, J. and Larkin, J.C.

Affiliations.

Member, Genetics Society of America (GSA).

Postgraduate students supervised.

PhD

Johnstone O. Neondo,

Topic.

On going

Msc

References

Dr. John C. Larkin,
Dept of Biological Sciences,
Louisiana State University,
Baton Rouge, LA, 70803 USA.
Tel. (225) 578-8552
Email. jlarkin@lsu.edu

Dr. James V. Morroney,
Dept of Biological Sciences,
Louisiana State University,
Baton Rouge, LA, 70803 USA.
Tel. (225) 578-8561/2601
Email. btmoro@lsu.edu

Dr. Meredith Blackwell,
Dept of Biological Sciences,
Louisiana State University,
Baton Rouge, LA, 70803 USA.
Tel (225) 578-8551
Email. mblackwell@lsu.edu

Dr. Mary Lilly,
NIH (NICHD),
Building 18T room 101,
Bethesda, MD, 20892, USA.
Tel. (301) 4358428,
Email. ml220g@nih.gov