

# Riccardo Cifariello

## Personal Data

Birth: 25 August 1987 in Rome (RM), Italy  
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Status: Single

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Recent graduate from the University of Rome Tor Vergata, faculty of Biological Sciences. My Master's thesis work was on cyanobacteria's resistance to ionizing radiation. Among others, I performed *in vivo* and *in vitro* assays, and analyzed the obtained data. Throughout this project, I have developed a very strong interest in astrobiology.

I have a good knowledge of laboratory procedures and good computing skills, having used several scientific databases and data analysis programs. I am eager to expand this expertise, able to work in team, available to travel, and looking forward to facing new challenges.

I am now looking for a PhD position in astrobiology for, ultimately, pursuing a career in this field.

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## Education

### **October 2012 - October 2015**

Master's Degree in Human and Evolutionary Biology obtained from University of Rome Tor Vergata. Final thesis title: 'Ionizing-Radiation Resistance of the Cyanobacterium *Chroococcidiopsis*, astrobiological implications'.

Training at Prof. Daniela Billi's Laboratory of Astrobiology and Molecular Biology of Cyanobacteria (March 2014 – August 2015).

Final grade: 110/110.

### **October 2007 – October 2012**

Bachelor's Degree in Cellular and Molecular Biology obtained from University of Rome Tor Vergata. Thesis title: 'Characterization of human DNA Topoisomerase I site-specific mutations involved in poly(ADP)-ribose binding'.

Training in the laboratory of Prof. Alessandro Desideri, Department of Biology, University of Rome Tor Vergata, Italy (March 2011 – August 2011).

Final grade: 100/110.

### **July 2006**

Scientific Diploma from Liceo Scientifico "Teresa Gullace Talotta", Rome (RM), Italy.

Final grade 80/100.

## **Publications**

Verseux C, Baqué M, Cifariello R, Fagiarone C, Raguse M, Moeller R, Billi D (submitted, 2016).  
Starlife IV: Resistance of *Chroococcidiopsis* spp. to sparsely and densely ionizing irradiation.

## **Languages**

Italian: native speaker

English: B2

## **Laboratory Skills**

- Cell counting (manual/automated)
- Culture identification
- Growth curve modeling
- Medium preparation
- Cell plating
- Optical instrumentation
- DNA isolation and purification
- DNA quantification
- PCR and qPCR
- Primer design
- Gel electrophoresis
- RNA isolation and purification
- RT-qPCR
- cDNA library preparation

## **Computing Skills**

Operating system: Linux (Ubuntu), Windows, Mac OS.

Data analysis software: Microsoft Excel, Apache OpenOffice Calc.

Biological databases: PDB, UniProt, SwissProt, Ensemble.

Sequence alignment software: BLAST.

## **Additional information**

I am keen on playing drums and guitar, and practicing sports like football, cycling and volleyball. I love listening to music, reading books and travelling.

From 2008 to 2013, I have been a member of SSD CALCIOSOCIALE, an association that encourages integration of people with physical, mental and socio-cultural disadvantaged conditions of any kind of sex, religion and age, through the game of football, and tries to transmit values such as respect and legality.

Since 2013, I have been vice president of the cultural association ALTER EUROPE, created with the purpose of promoting the diffusion of Central and Eastern Europe culture, in its mutual relations with other cultures.

From those experiences, I learnt to work cooperatively, to contribute with suggestions and efforts to a team's accomplishments, always respecting individual preferences, opinions and customs.