

Personal Details

Nationality Greek.
Languages Greek (native language), English (fluently).
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Education

Sept 1978 – Jun 1984 High-school / Lyceum, Kavala, Greece.
Sept 1985 – Jun 1989 Degree (BSc) on Plant Production, Technological & Educational Institute (T.E.I.) of Western Macedonia, Branch Florina, Greece.
Sept 1995 – Nov 1996 Master of Science (MSc), University of Wales, Bangor, UK- Dissertation title: “Expression patterns of *Brassica napus* extensin genes”.
Jan 1997 – Mar 2001 Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), University of Wales, Bangor, UK- Thesis title: “*In vivo* expression patterns of *atExt1*, an *Arabidopsis thaliana* extensin gene”.

Working Experience

Apr 2001 – Feb 2002 Research Associate - Aristotle University, Thessaloniki, Greece.
Mar 2002 – May 2005 Research Associate- Sainsbury Laboratory, Norwich, United Kingdom.
July 2005 – July 2006 Research Associate- Division of Cell Biology, Linköping University, Sweden.
Nov 2006 – 2016 (On/Off) Research Associate / External Collaborator- Institute of Applied Biosciences (former Institute of Agrobiotechnology), Thessaloniki, Greece.
Feb 2015 – 2016 Research Associate- Institute of Plant Breeding & Genetic Resources / Hellenic Agricultural Organization "DIMITRA".
Oct 2017 – Today Researcher- Department of Vitis / Institute of Olive tree, Subtropical Crops and Viticulture / Hellenic Agricultural Organization DIMITRA.

Teaching Experience

Mar 2008 – July 2013

- 1) Part-time Lecturer: Agricultural Biotechnology- T.E.I. (Technological & Educational Institute) of Thessaloniki, Greece.
- 2) Part-time Lecturer: i) Agricultural Biotechnology, ii) Food Biochemistry & Biotechnology, iii) Biology- T.E.I. of Western Macedonia, Greece.
- 3) Part-time Lecturer: i) Plant Biology, ii) Morphology & Physiology of Grapevine- T.E.I. of Kavala, Greece.

Publications in peer reviewed journals

- 1) **Merkouropoulos G**, Barnett DC, Shirsat AH (1999) The *Arabidopsis* extensin gene is developmentally regulated, is induced by wounding, methyl jasmonate, abscisic and salicylic acid, and codes for a protein with unusual motifs.
Planta 208: 212-219. doi: 10.1007/s004250050552
- 2) **Merkouropoulos G**, Shirsat AH (2003) The unusual *Arabidopsis* extensin gene *atExt1* is expressed throughout plant development and is induced by a variety of biotic and abiotic stresses.
Planta 217: 356-366. doi: 10.1007/s00425-003-1002-y
- 3) **Merkouropoulos G**, Andreasson E, Hess D, Boller T, and Peck SC (2008) An *Arabidopsis* protein phosphorylated in response to microbial elicitation, AtPHOS32, is a Substrate of MAP Kinases 3 and 6.
Journal of Biological Chemistry 283: 10493-10499. doi: 10.1074/jbc.M800735200
- 4) Kalamaki MS, Alexandrou D, Lazari D, **Merkouropoulos G**, Fotopoulos V, Pateraki I, Aggelis A, Carrillo-López A, Cabetas MJR, Kanellis AK (2009) Over-expression of a tomato N- acetyl- glutamate synthase gene (SINAGS1) in *Arabidopsis thaliana* results in high ornithine levels and increased tolerance in salt and drought stresses.
Journal of Experimental Botany 60: 1859- 1871. doi: 10.1093/jxb/erp072
- 5) Kalamaki MS, **Merkouropoulos G**, Kanellis AK (2009) Can ornithine accumulation modulate abiotic stress tolerance in *Arabidopsis*?
Plant Signaling & Behavior 4, 1099- 1101. http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2819526/pdf/psb0411_1099.pdf
- 6) Ganopoulos I*, **Merkouropoulos G***, Pantazis S, Tsipouridis C, Tsaftaris A (September 2010) Assessing molecular and morpho-agronomical diversity and identification of ISSR markers associated with fruit traits in quince (*Cydonia oblonga* M.)
Genetics & Molecular Research 10: 2729- 2746. doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.4238/2011.November.4.7>
* Equal contribution.
- 7) **Merkouropoulos G**, Shirsat AH (2012) Histochemical map of the ectopic expression of the *Arabidopsis atExt1* extensin gene in transgenic tobacco.
Genetics & Molecular Research 11: 1830- 1840. doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.4238/2012.July.19.3>
- 8) Lazaridou M, Kostopoulou P, Karatassiou M, **Merkouropoulos G** (2012) Comparative investigation on physiological responses of field grown alfalfa and tall fescue to water deficit and cutting.
African Journal of Range & Forage Science 29: 147-152.
<http://dx.doi.org/10.2989/10220119.2012.744775>
- 9) Roberts K, **Merkouropoulos G**, Shirsat AH (201?) Identification of promoter regions in the *Arabidopsis thaliana atExt1* extensin gene controlling late responses to wounding and pathogen attack.
Biologia Plantarum 57: 341-350. doi: 10.1007/s10535-012-0281-1
- 10) **Merkouropoulos G**, Tsaftaris AS (2013) Differential expression of the *Gossypium hirsutum* USP-related genes, GhUSP1 and GhUSP2, during development and upon salt stress.

Plant Molecular Biology Reporter 31: 1539-1547. doi 10.1007/s11105-013-0630-z

- 11) **Merkouropoulos G**, Michailidou S, Alifragkis A, Argiriou A, Zioziou E, Koundouras S, Nikolaou N (2014) A combined approach involving ampelographic description, berry oenological traits and molecular analysis to study native grapevine varieties of Greece. *Vitis* 54 (Special Issue), 99–103
- 12) **Merkouropoulos G**, Ioannis Ganopoulos, Athanasios Tsaftaris, Ioannis Papadopoulos, Pavlina Drogoudi (2016) Combination of High Resolution Melting (HRM) analysis and SSR molecular markers speeds up plum genotyping: case study genotyping the Greek plum GeneBank collection. *Plant Genetic Resources* 15: 366-375. doi:10.1017/S1479262116000022
- 13) **Merkouropoulos G**, Kapazoglou A, Drosou V, Jakobs E, Krozlig A, Papadopoulos C, Bs, Hilioti Z (2016) Dwarf hybrids of *Ricinus communis* suitable for mechanized harvesting reveal differences in morpho-physiological characteristics and seed metabolic profiles. *Euphytica* 210: 207-219. doi:10.1007/s10681-016-1702-6
- 14) **Merkouropoulos G**, Ganopoulos I, Mylona F, Doulis A, Nikolaou N. Muscat or non-muscat among the autochthonous Greek vinification grapevine varieties: separation by one step using high resolution melting (HRM) analysis. *OENO-One* 50: 161-167. doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.20870/oenone.2016.50.3.1571>
- 15) **Merkouropoulos G**, Hilioti Z, Abraham EM, Lazaridou M (x2017x) Evaluation of *Lotus corniculatus* L. accessions from different locations at different altitudes reveals phenotypic and genetic diversity. *Grass & Forage Science*. doi: 10.1111/gfs.12279.
- 16) Drosou V, Kapazoglou A, Koidou V, **Merkouropoulos G**, Hilioti Z (x2017x) Characterization of cytosine-5 DNA methyltransferase and DNA demethylase gene families in *Ricinus communis*. *Plant Growth Regul.* doi: 10.1007/s10725-017-0323-y
- 17) **Merkouropoulos G**, Mylona P (2018) Assessment of genetic diversity in *Vitis vinifera* local cultivars of Northern Greece as a means for valorization of vine and wine territories. *Territoires du vin*, 8. doi: <http://preo.u-bourgogne.fr/territoiresduvin/index.php?id=1357>
- 18) Miliordos DE, **Merkouropoulos G**, Korgou C, Arseniou S, Proxenia N, Hatzopoulos P, Kotseridis Y (2021) Explore the rare – Molecular identification and wine evaluation of the two autochthonous Greek varieties: “Karnachalades” and “Bogialamades”. *Plants* 2021, 10(8), 1556. <https://doi.org/10.3390/plants10081556>

Conference Full papers

- 1) **Merkouropoulos G**, Greveniotis V, Zotis S, Tsaftaris AS (2013) Molecular characterization of the barley population “Zotis”. Proceedings of the 14th Panhellenic Conference of the Hellenic Scientific Society for Genetics and Plant Breeding (H.S.S.G.P.B.)
- 2) **Merkouropoulos G**, E Batianis (2013) *Vitis* Biodiversity in Western Macedonia. Proceedings of the 3rd International Symposium, Trends in world Vitiviculture development, Santorini, 30-31 May 2013.

http://ampelos2013.conferences.gr/fileadmin/ampelos2013/Papers/AMPELOS_2013_Merkouropoulos.pdf

- 3) **Merkouropoulos G**, Ganopoulos I, Argiriou A, Zioziou E, Koundouras S and Nikolaou N (2013) Ampelographic description, berry oenological traits, and molecular characterisation of grapevine varieties grown in northern Greece. Proceedings of the 3rd International Symposium, Trends in world Vitiviniculture development, Santorini, 30-31 May 2013.
http://ampelos2013.conferences.gr/fileadmin/ampelos2013/Papers/Ampelos_2013_Nikolaou.pdf
- 4) **Merkouropoulos G**, Drosou V, Kapazoglou A, Hilioti Z, (2014) Temperature requirements on *Ricinus communis* seed germination. 37th Conference of the Hellenic Society of Biological Sciences, Volos 17-20 May.
- 5) **Merkouropoulos G**, Hilioti Z, Abraham E, Lazaridou M (2014) Holistic study of the drought adaptation mechanisms of physical populations of *Lotus corniculatus*: the molecular approach. 15th Panhellenic Meeting of the Hellenic Scientific Society for Genetics and Plant Breeding, Larisa, Greece. (In Greek).
- 6) **Merkouropoulos G**, Miliordos D-E, Hatzopoulos P, Kotseridis G (2018) Molecular and oenological evaluation of grapevine varieties from Monemvasia: the birth place of Malvasia wines. Sardinia, September.
- 7) **Merkouropoulos G**, Miliordos D-E, Hatzopoulos P, Kotseridis G (2018) Chasing unknown Greek indigenous grapevine varieties from Peloponnese- Initial results. Yalta, October