

VITA

Sharon Angella McDonald

Sharon Angella McDonald was born on June 30, 1964 in St. Mary, Jamaica, West Indies. She completed her secondary education at the Convent of Mercy Academy (Alpha) in Kingston, Jamaica, Marymount High School, St. Mary, Jamaica and the Immaculate Conception High School in Kingston. Sharon earned her Bachelor of Science Degree (major, Zoology; minor, Botany) at the University of the West Indies, Jamaica, in 1986. During 1986 to 1990 she taught high school Biology and General Science at Marymount and Wolmer's High Schools for Girls. She was employed as a research assistant at the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute, Jamaica from July 1990 through July 1995. Her key project was a study of the coconut mite, *Eriophyes guerreronis* (Keifer), which was the basis of her research when she enrolled part-time at the University of the West Indies (UWI), Jamaica, for a Master of Philosophy program in 1991. Her major academic advisor was Ajai Mansingh. Sharon enrolled as a Master of Science student in the Department of Entomology at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech), in 1995 before she completed her studies at UWI. She was given permission to use portions of the data from her research on the coconut mite for her thesis. She graduated in 1997. The thesis was entitled, "Infestation patterns of the coconut mite, *Eriophyes guerreronis* (Keifer) (Acari: Eriophyidae), on coconuts and resulting yield loss in eastern Jamaica". Her major advisor was F. William Ravlin. Sharon continued her studies in the Department of Entomology, Virginia Tech, and her research was focused on the aphid-transmitted viruses of Scotch Bonnet pepper. Her major advisors were Brian A. Nault and Sue A. Tolin.