

Vita

Sharon Angella McDonald

Sharon Angella McDonald was born on June 30, 1964 in St. Mary, Jamaica, West Indies. She started her high school education at the Convent of Mercy Academy (Alpha) in Kingston Jamaica and graduated from Marymount High School, St. Mary, Jamaica in 1981. She then attended the Immaculate Conception High School in Kingston where she completed two years of preliminary university courses. Sharon earned her Bachelor of Science Degree (major, Zoology) 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. In July 1990, she started working as a research assistant at the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute, Jamaica. Her key project was a study of the coconut mite, *Eriophyes guerreronis* (Keifer). In 1991 she enrolled at the University of the West Indies, Jamaica, for a Master of Philosophy program. She continued to work at the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute as a graduate research assistant. Her major academic advisor was Ajai Mansingh and her research was based on the biology and economic importance of the coconut mite. She submitted the manuscript for examination in 1996. In 1995 Sharon enrolled as a Master of Science student at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. She was allowed to use portions of the data from her research on the coconut mite for her thesis. Her major advisor was Bill Ravlin. Sharon has already been accepted as a doctoral student at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University and her research will be focused on aphid transmission of viruses to Scotch Bonnet pepper.