

Sonia M. Rodríguez-Ruano (ORCID 0000-0001-6863-717X) graduated in Biology in 2010 obtaining the degree's final special award of that year in the University of Granada. She obtained a master's degree in Biotechnology in 2011, including the master thesis "Functional Study of the Promoters of the as-48 Region" with outstanding marks. She completed her studies with a PhD in Microbiology in 2015, which was awarded with an international mention thanks to two stays abroad: four months in Polz's laboratory at MIT, Cambridge, MA, USA (2013) and four months in Knight's laboratory at UCB, Boulder, CO, USA (2014). Her PhD thesis "Bacterial Diversity in the Uropigial Gland of Hoopoe: Seasonal Dynamics and Associated Benefits", supervised by Dr. Martínez Bueno and Dr. Martín-Vivaldi Martínez, obtained a *cum laude* distinction.

Her international postdoctoral experience includes her participation as a member of the research group "Phylogenetic and Genomic Studies of Blood-Sucking Insects and their Bacterial Symbionts" in Czech Republic (2016-2020), and a two-year MSCA-IF fellowship at the University of South Bohemia in Ceske Budejovice, where she was responsible of the project "Interplay of mosquitoes, bacterial symbionts and viruses in Europe - IMBaSyVE" funded by H2020 European funds (2018-2020). She has been a postdoctoral visitor researcher at EAWAG (Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology) in Switzerland for six months (2019), and visited different institutions in the USA (UC, Riverside and UT, Austin) during two fieldwork trips (2017/2018). She has also been a postdoctoral fellow (2020-2021) at the Institute of Agrochemistry and Food Technology of the Spanish National Research Council (IATA - CSIC), where she was actively involved in projects related to Microbial Ecology, Food and Health (including microbiota – COVID-19 studies). Currently, Dr. Sonia M. Rodríguez-Ruano is working at the Department of Microbiology of the Science Faculty of the University of Granada with a postdoctoral contract co-funded by European (European Social Fund) and regional (Junta de Andalucía) entities.

She is an expert in Molecular Biology, Microbiology, Metagenomics, Bioinformatics, Ecology And Evolution, and her research is focused on the specific ecophysiological factors that drive the symbiosis establishment, dynamics and function, with particular interest in host-symbiont interactions and their relevance to epidemiology, public health and food safety. Her publication record includes 17 scientific publications (14 research papers in journals indexed in JCR, more than 90% Q1 and open access) with more than 200 citations in Google Scholar (H-index 7 in WoS). She has also contributed works to 11 international conferences, 3 national conferences, and participated in 11 dissemination activities in different countries worldwide. During her scientific career, she has been awarded 8 research grants (1 funded by regional competitive calls, 4 funded by national competitive calls, and 1 funded by European competitive calls) and participated in another 10 research projects (1 funded by European competitive calls, 7 funded by national competitive calls and 1 funded by private companies). She has also developed teaching and supervising skills, with 4 Master's (1 still in progress) and 4 Bachelor's theses supervised, and more than 290 hours of higher education teaching (2014-2020). She is currently certified by the ANECA (Spanish National Agency of Quality Evaluation) as Assistant Professor (Profesor Ayudante Doctor).