



TROPIMUNDO

ERASMUS MUNDUS MASTERS COURSE IN TROPICAL BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEMS

Pascale BESSE, UNIRé Local Coordinator

After a PhD at Cirad in Montpellier (France) and a postdoctoral position at CSIRO in Brisbane (Australia), Pascale Besse was appointed at the University of La Reunion in 1997 where she is now a Professor in charge of the master's degree in tropical ecosystems biodiversity (Master BEE BEST-T). She is part of the research unit UMR PVBMT (Peuplements Végétaux et Bioagresseurs en Milieu Tropical) and in charge of the research team 2. Her research is currently focusing on the Vanilla genus exploring molecular genetics of traits of interest as well as species evolution and population genetics towards preservation of wild genetic resources and breeding of improved varieties. Our teams at PVBMT are conducting research around plant protection, in three main fields:

1. 'Genomics and epidemiology of emerging pathogens': host adaptation, epidemiologic surveillance and molecular epidemiology
2. 'Diversity and sustainable use of tropical plant genetic resources': durable resistances to diseases for cultivated plants, evolutionary genetics and biology for indigenous plant species, conservation and valorisation of plant genetic resources.
3. 'Insular ecological dynamics': arthropod evolutionary biology and genetics, ecosystems communities' biodiversity and functioning, agro-ecological management of pests; invasive species management.

1	Family name	BESSE		
2	First name	Pascale		
3	Place and date of birth	Paris, 01 April 1965		
4	Nationality	French		
5	E-mail	pascale.besse@univ-reunion.fr		
6	Education / Professional studies			
	Dates (from-to)	Institution	Degree/diploma	
	1990-1993	Cirad – Université Paris XI	PhD Sciences	
	1997-2006	Université Réunion	HDR (Habilitation à diriger des recherches)	
7	Language skills Grade skill 1-5 (1 = basic, 5 = excellent, * = mother tongue)			
	Language	Speaking	Reading	Writing
	English	5	5	5
	French*	5	5	5
8	Membership of professional bodies			

9	Other Skills		
	research skills, managerial capabilities		
10	Name of organisation currently working for and Present position in the organisation	Name of Organisation: Université de La Réunion Present position in the organisation: Professor	
11	Years with the organisation	23 years	
12	Long-term experience in selected countries/territories		
	Country	Date	Details
	Australia	1993-1997	CSIRO Brisbane post-doctoral position
13	Professional experience record		
	Location	Date	Organisation
	La Reunion	2006-present	Université de La Réunion
	La Reunion	1997-2006	Université de La Réunion
	Position	Maître de Conférence (lecturer), then Professor	
	Responsibilities	Scientific research, Education, Projects, PhD supervision	
14	Publications		
	Number of publications in peer-reviewed journals		
	46		
	10 publications that are most representative in the field of tropical biodiversity and ecosystems		
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. RAKOTOMANGA N, GOULIÉ C, DA SILVA D, BARRE N, CITADELLE G, SILVESTRE D, GRISONI M and BESSE P (2016) Microsatellite Markers Confirm Self-Pollination and Autogamy in Wild Populations of <i>Vanilla mexicana</i> Mill. (syn. <i>V. inodora</i>) (Orchidaceae) in the Island of Guadeloupe. In : "Microsatellite markers" edited by Ibrokhim Y. Abdurakhmonov, InTech Publishers, ISBN 978-953-51-2798-7. 2. GIGANT R., DE BRUYN A., M'SA T., GUIOT V., VISCARDI G., GIGORD L., GAUVIN-BIALECKI A., PAILLER T., HUMEAU L., GRISONI M., BESSE P. (2016). Combining pollination ecology and Fine-scale Spatial Genetic Structure analysis to unravel the reproductive strategy of an insular threatened orchid. South African Journal of Botany, 105, 25–35. 3. GIGANT R.L., DE BRUYN A., CHURCH B., HUMEAU L., GAUVIN-BIALECKI A., PAILLER T., GRISONI M., BESSE P. (2014) Active sexual reproduction but no sign of genetic diversity in range-edge populations of <i>Vanilla roscheri</i> Rchb. f. (Orchidaceae) in South Africa. Conserv Genet 15:1403–1415. 4. GIGANT R., BORY S., GRISONI M., BESSE P. 2011. Biodiversity and evolution in the <i>Vanilla</i> genus. In Eds. Oscar G., Gianfranco V. The dynamical processes of biodiversity : case studies of evolution and spatial distribution. Rijeka: Intechopen, 1-26. 5. BOUETARD A, LEFEUVRE P, GIGANT R, BORY S, PIGNAL M, BESSE P, GRISONI M, 2010. Evidence of transoceanic dispersion of the genus <i>Vanilla</i> based on plastid DNA phylogenetic analysis. <i>Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution</i>, 55, 621-630 		

	<p>6. LECOLIER A, BESSE P, CHARRIER A, TCHAKALOFF TN, NOIROT M, 2009. The origin of <i>Coffea arabica</i> 'Bourbon pointu' from La Réunion: a historical and scientific perspective. <i>Euphytica</i>, 168, 1-10</p> <p>7. BORY S, LUBINSKY P, RISTERUCCI AM, NOYER JL, GRISONI M, DUVAL MF, BESSE P, 2008. Patterns of introduction and diversification of <i>Vanilla planifolia</i> (Orchidaceae) in Reunion island (Indian Ocean). <i>Am. J. Bot</i>, 95, 805-815</p> <p>8. BESSE P, DA SILVA D, HUMEAU L, GOVINDEN-SOULANGE J, GURIB-FAKIM A, KODJA H, 2003 A genetic diversity study of endangered <i>Psiadia</i> sp. endemic from Mauritius Island using PCR markers. <i>Biochemical Systematics and Ecology</i>, 31, 1427-1445</p> <p>9. BESSE P, TAYLOR G, CARROLL B, BERDING N, BURNER D, MCINTYRE CL, 1998. Assessing genetic diversity in a sugarcane collection using an automated AFLP analysis. <i>Genetica</i>, 104 : 143-153.</p> <p>10. BESSE P, SEGUIN M, LEBRUN P, CHEVALLIER MH, NICOLAS D, LANAUD C, 1993. Genetic diversity among wild and cultivated populations of <i>Hevea brasiliensis</i> assessed by nuclear RFLP analysis. <i>Theor Appl Genet</i>, 88: 199-207</p>		
15	Number of conference presentations (between brackets invited contributions)		
	21 (since 2008)		
16	Most important awards		
	Award	Award date	Issuing organisation