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From stress to success: how actinobacteria exploit life without a cell wall

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Curriculum vitae

Véronique Margiet Antoinette Ongenae was born in Enschede, The Netherlands on the 26th of June, 1996. She attended secondary school at the Bonhoeffer College Van der Waalslaan, following the 'Science and Health' profile, from which she graduated in 2014.

After graduation, she moved from Enschede to Leiden to follow the Bachelor Biology at Leiden University. During this time, she discovered her passion for microbes and ecology and therefore continued her studies by following the Master "From Cells to Organisms" again at Leiden University. During her first Master internship, supervised by dr. Sjoerd Seekles in the fungal biotechnology group of prof. dr. Arthur Ram, she studied the impact of environmental conditions on the stress-resistance of *Aspergillus niger* conidia. This internship really sparked her interest for doing research. She then did her second Master internship at the Westerdijk fungal biodiversity institute in the group of dr. Jos Houbraken under the supervision of dr. Jan Dijksterhuis and dr. Tom Van den Brule, where she identified and annotated genes involved in the heat-resistance of *Paecilomyces variotii* conidia. After graduating her Masters during the pandemic in 2020, she continued to work at the Westerdijk institute as a technician in the Fungal physiology department.

Véronique started her PhD programme at the Institute of Biology at Leiden University in 2021. Under the joint supervision of prof. dr. Dennis Claessen and prof. dr. Ariane Briegel. The work done as a PhD student is described in this thesis.

Publications

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