

David Kimutai Melly Ph.D. | Experienced Botanist and Lecturer

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PERSONAL STATEMENT

I am an experienced Research Scientist- Botanist with a proven track record of project management and successful floristic surveys. I am competent in preparing and executing project plans to ensure that every opportunity to promote the scientific contribution and preservation and conservation of Biodiversity.

KEY SKILLS

- Motivated, tenacious and excited about development and progression.
- Fantastic communication, organizational skills and relationship building.
- Proven strong work ethics & ability to plan, multi-task and prioritize to work independently.
- Excellent time-keeping, commercially minded, goal-oriented, entrepreneurial, and proactive.
- Great leadership and organizational skills
- Plant specimen collection pressing, DNA sample collection and DNA extraction and analysis of phylogenetics, photography, Keying and identifying
- Native English speaker, fluent in Kiswahili and Chinese.
- Key account management training and experience as well as Microsoft office 365 proficient

WORK HISTORY

2021.01 – To date | Lecturer-Botany (Plant Taxonomy) | Bomet University College

- Teaching and mentoring students of Botany, conducting research in the areas of Biodiversity conservation

2021.11 – 2022.11 | Postdoctoral Fellow | Mpala-Smithsonian Postdoctoral Fellowship

2016 – 2020.06 | Research Scientist | Lab of East Africa Plant Taxonomy & Flora

- Working on Flora of Kenya with special focus on the biodiversity and floristic surveys of North & South Nandi Forests, Taita Hills Forests, and Aberdare Ranges

2013 – 2015 | Project Plot Manager | Mpala Research Center

- Working on Smithsonian institution global Earth observatory project **Center for Tropical Forest Sciences (CTFS)- (FORESTGEO)-** Long term monitoring project. In charge of running of day to day operation in the plot with a team of 17 members of staff. Data collection, data entry and cleaning

2011– 2012 | Research assistant intern | Mpala Research Centre

- Worked on USAID funded Rangeland Health Monitoring project across Laikipia County involving the restoration of the community conservation projects.

9/2010-10/2010 | Behavior peer educator volunteer | -Neighbors in Action

- I trained youth on behavior change- HIV/AIDS & STIs. Writing reports during meetings, trainings, and workshops. Planning & organizing workshops and presenting the results.

6/2010-10/2010 | Attachee | Delamere Estates and Soy Sambu Conservancy

- I was involved in Livestock Management and Wildlife Conservation.

2006-2007 | Teacher | ST James Memorial School.

Biology/Chemistry Teacher

EDUCATION

2021– 2022 Postdoctoral Fellow- Smithsonian-Mpala

2017 – 2020 Doctor of Philosophy in Botany- Chinese Academy of Sciences, Wuhan Botanical Garden

2015 – 2017 Master of Science Botany- Plant Taxonomy-University of Chinese Academy of Sciences (China)

2007 – 2011 BSc. Range Management (2nd Class honors Upper division)-University of Nairobi

2002 – 2005 Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education. A –(minus)-Moi High school-Kabarak

1993 – 2001 Kenya Certificate of Primary Education. 381 out of 500 marks-Kiplombe Primary School

2020 06-07 Planning for Monitoring and Evaluation, Certificate- Philanthropy University

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

1. Society for Conservation Biology Member ID 85560
2. Forestry Society of Kenya FSK/S/0619
3. Association for the Taxonomic Study of the Flora of Tropical Africa (AETFAT)

OTHER MEMBERSHIP

Nairobi University Range Management Students' Society (NURMSS),
Nairobi University Agriculture Students association. (NUASA),
Upper Kabete campus Christian Union. (U.K.C.C.U),
North Rift Evangelistic team (NORET),
Kenyans studying in Wuhan Association (KENSWA).

INTERESTS

When I am not at work, I love reading, sporting in athletics and soccer, attending workshops, photography, traveling, giving motivational speeches and spending time with my family.

AWARDS

- **10/2004** Awarded the prestigious **Presidents Award for young people** for outstanding community service
- **2015** UCAS full scholarship for master study at CAS Beijing
- **2017** UCAS full scholarship for Doctoral study in Botany- Plant Taxonomy

LEADERSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES

| Date | Position | Institution |
|------------------|---|---|
| 06.2019- 06.2020 | President - International students & Vice President of the student council | Wuhan Botanical Garden- University of Chinese Academy of Sciences |
| 05.2019- 06.2020 | President | Kenyan students in Wuhan Association (KENSWA) |
| 10.2017-11.2018 | International students' deputy vice president | Wuhan Botanical Garden Chinese Academy of Sciences. |
| 06.2016-10.2017 | Grade representative for foreign students' class of 2015 | University of Chinese Academy of Sciences, Wuhan Botanical Garden |
| 12.2011- 2016 | Secretary-General & Executive committee member | Wareng stars youth group & Jubilee Youth Group |
| 10.2010-6.2011. | Chairman | NURMSS (Nairobi University Range Management student society). |
| 2009-2011 | Chairman | NORET (North Rift Evangelistic Team University of Nairobi branch) |
| 01.2010-01.211 | Discipleship co-coordinator- Executive committee | Upper Kabete Campus Christian union. (UKCCU) |

Conferences, trainings and workshops

- **2021.13/7-14/7**-Presented in the 1st Bomet University College International Conference, Bomet University College, Kenya
- **2021-4**- Improving Online Facilitation Skills for Colleges' and Universities' Lecturers in East Africa from 12th to 16th April, 2021
- **2018-10-The Belt and road:** Science and Technology Workshop for Developing Countries. Training Course on Scientific Management and Practice of Botanical Gardens, Wuhan China
- **2018-07**-The 9th National Conference on Ethnobotany and the 8th Asia-Pacific Forum on Ethnobotany in Kunming, China
- **2018-07**-The 2018 Summer School on Frontier and Interdisciplinary Sciences for the Overseas Students in International College-University of Chinese Academy of Sciences (IC-UCAS) in Beijing
- **2017-07**-XIX International Botanical Congress (IBC), Shenzhen China
- **2017-05**-XXI AETFAT Congress, Nairobi Kenya

Publications

1. Restoration in Laikipia's community lands successes, challenges, and lessons learned. Report to the Laikipia Wildlife Forum and USAID. CE Riginos, Wakoli, **DK Melly**, and D. Kimiti. (2012).
2. *Zehneria longiflora* (Cucurbitaceae), a new species from Kenya
N Wei^{1,2,3}, DO Miyawa^{1,2,3,4}, **DK Melly**^{1,2,3}, et al. (2017)
3. *Zehneria tubifera* (Cucurbitaceae), a new species from Taita Hills, Kenya
BM Watuma^{1,2,3}, N Wei^{1,2,3}, **DK Melly**^{1,2,3}, et al. (2019)
4. Conservation priorities and distribution patterns of vascular plant species along environmental gradients in Aberdare ranges forest
S Kipkoech^{1,2,4}, **DK Melly**^{1,2,4}, BW Mwema^{1,2,4} et al. (2019)
5. A catalogue of the vascular plants of Aberdare ranges forest, an Eastern Afromontane Biodiversity Hotspot
S Kipkoech, **DK Melly**, BW Mwema, et al. (2020)
6. *Coccinia subsessiliflora*, a new record for Kenya and notes on its phylogenetic position
DK Melly^{1,2,3§}, NWei^{1,2,3§}, V Kathambi^{1,2,3} et al. (2019)
7. An annotated checklist of the vascular flora of South and North Nandi Forests, Kenya
DK Melly^{1,2,3,4}, S Kipkoech^{1,2,3,4}, BW Mwema^{1,2,3,4}, et al. (2020)
8. *Zehneria grandibracteata* (Cucurbitaceae), a long-neglected new species from western Kenyan forests
Neng W, Zhi-Xiang Z, **DK Melly**, et al (2020)

REFEREES

1. Prof. Guang-Wan Hu, Chinese Academy of Sciences Wuhan Botanical Garden, Phone: 027-87511510 postal code 430074, Wuhan China. E-mail: guangwanhu@wbcas.cn Mobile: +86 185 7153 6288
2. Dr. David Kenfack, Africa Program Coordinator CTFS – ForestGEO, Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History. West Loading Dock, 10th and Constitution Ave, NW Washington, DC 20560-0166. Tel. 202-633-4706. Email: KenfackD@si.edu
3. Dr. Mutuku Musili Paul Research Scientist and Head of Department-Botany. East African Herbarium (E.A) P.O. Box 45166 00100 NAIROBI. E-mail: pmutuku@museums.or.ke Mobile: +254023742161