Name:	Antonio Cala Peralta
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Bio:

Dr. Antonio Cala Peralta is an Assistant Professor in the Organic Chemistry Department at the University of Cádiz, located on the Campus of Puerto Real (Spain). He obtained his Ph.D. in Science with honors in 2017 and was awarded for the best thesis by the University of Cádiz and the Spanish Royal Society of Chemistry. His research focuses on the synthesis and isolation of natural products and their formulation for the development of new herbicides. He worked as a postdoc in France for two years (2018-2020), studying new compounds from apple tree leaves to combat against prostate cancer. Since 2016, he has maintained a stable collaboration with the University of Naples Federico II and the IAS-CSIC from Córdoba in the search for new bioactive compounds, primarily as potential herbicides against parasitic weeds. Since he started his career, he has participated in several national, regional and local projects (one as Principal Investigator), published more than 20 papers, supervised bachelor's and master's student projects, and has consistently disseminated the results of his work at international congresses and events such as the Week of Science and the European Researcher's Night.

Name:	Jesús García Zorrilla
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Bio:

Dr. Jesús García Zorrilla is a Chemist with two Master's degrees and a Ph.D. in Agro-Food Resources from the University of Cádiz (UCA). His doctoral thesis focused on the synthesis of strigolactone analogues with eudesmanolide skeleton, an area that has significant implications for parasitic weed control. He has specialized in Natural Product Chemistry, particularly in the isolation and synthesis of bioactive compounds for use as agrochemicals and pharmaceuticals, with extensive research experience in allelopathy and plant-microorganism interactions at UCA's Organic Chemistry Department, where he has contributed to numerous research projects and publications. He has authored 29 articles, 1 book chapter, and holds one patent.

His work has gained international recognition, evidenced by his postdoctoral research at the University of Naples Federico II and his collaborations with global institutions like the CSIC, the Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Station (USA), and the University of Sousse (Tunisia). One of his main research lines focuses on strigolactones and their analogues as tools to induce suicidal germination in parasitic weeds, a promising strategy for combating agricultural pests. He has been awarded the 2024 European Phytochemical Society Prize for Best Young Researcher in Natural Products.

Name:	Francisco Javier Rodríguez Mejías
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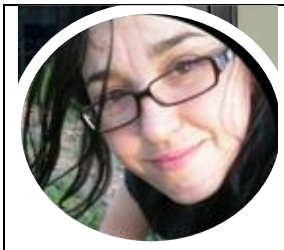
Bio:

Dr. Francisco J. Rodríguez Mejías obtained his bachelor's degree in chemistry in July 2016 from the University of Cádiz and his master's in Chemical Sciences and Technology in 2017 from the UNED (Madrid), receiving the Extraordinary Prize for best academic record. He began his PhD in Organic Chemistry at the University of Cádiz in 2018 with an FPI-UCA grant, focusing on designing fully organic encapsulation agents for pharmacological and agrochemical applications. He completed his PhD in July 2021 with *cum laude* honors, European doctor distinction, and a research stay at Jacobs University Bremen (Germany).

He has published 19 JCR Q1/Q2 articles, 2 patents, and a book chapter. His work has earned multiple awards, including Best Doctoral Thesis by the Spanish Royal Society of Chemistry (RSEQ) and the University of Cádiz, second place in the PSE Dr. Mariola Macias Award, and the 2023 Best Young Researcher Award (RSEQ).

As a postdoctoral researcher, he has contributed to projects at the Universities of Cádiz and Innsbruck, supervised 4 BSc/MSc theses, and managed R&D projects totaling over €1M. He also holds leadership roles, including Regional Representative for the PSE Iberian Region and member of the Biomolecules Doctoral Program Quality Assurance Commission.



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Bio:

Dr. Mónica Fernández-Aparicio Ruiz has PhD in Agronomy (Córdoba University) and more than twenty years of experience in the study of parasitic weeds (*Orobanche* spp., *Phelipanche* spp*., Striga* spp., and *Cuscuta* spp.) addressing the topics of a) host-parasitic plant chemical interaction; b) identification and characterization of crop resistance against parasitic weed infection; c) allelopathy (identification and characterization of plant and microbial toxins with herbicidal effect); d) studies of cropping systems that reduce the infection (intercropping, cover crops), in order to allow the integration of diversified strategies for parasitic weed management.

She has published a total of 94 publications in scientific journals, with 3340 cites of her work.