



MOURAD BEN SAID

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Short Biography

Dr. Mourad Ben Said is an Associate Professor in Animal Biotechnology and an Associate Researcher in Molecular Microbiology and Parasitology at the University of Manouba, Tunisia. His research interests primarily focus on macro- and microparasites. He is dedicated to developing molecular diagnostic and genotyping methods aimed at improving the identification and genetic characterization of vectors and vector-borne pathogens (VBPs). Additionally, Dr. Ben Said conducts epidemiological and phylogenetic studies on various VBPs, including bacteria, protozoa, and viruses, to enhance the understanding of their dynamics and transmission. His work also involves contributing to the development of new, effective vaccines targeting both vectors and VBPs.

In collaboration with several international institutions, Dr. Ben Said engages in projects related to metagenomics and phylogenetics of vector arthropods. He has authored over 140 publications in his field, demonstrating his commitment to advancing scientific knowledge. His scholarly contributions extend to his role as an invited editor for various journals, such as *Frontiers in Veterinary Sciences*, *Frontiers in Parasitology*, *Frontiers in Cellular and Infection Microbiology*, *Frontiers in Microbiology*, *Pathogens* (MDPI), and *Animals* (MDPI). He is also a reviewer for approximately 60 international journals.

Beyond his research activities, Dr. Ben Said supervises Master's and PhD students, guiding their investigations in molecular biology and the epidemiology of infectious diseases. With a strong commitment to advancing the field, he combines his expertise in biotechnology with a passion for education and research, making significant contributions to the understanding and management of health challenges associated with zoonotic diseases.

Activités de recherche

Publications

Publications

- Google Scholar link: https://scholar.google.fr/citations?view_op=list_works&hl=fr&user=bdSJC0IAAAA

- ORCID Number: 0000-0001-5567-4721

- H-index: 23 according to Goggle Scholar.

Book edited during the five last years:

1. Ben Said M, Diaz Sanchez S, Bastos A, Silaghi C. Book: Current Knowledge on Pathogenic and Endosymbiotic Tick-Borne Bacteria.

Frontiers in Veterinary Science, 2023.

Book chapters published during the five last years:

1. Ashraf MA, Mustafa BE, Wahaab A, Batool H, Ashraf M, Ben Said M, Sevinc F, Stevenson NJ. Conventional and Molecular Diagnosis of Parasites. In Parasitism and Parasitic Control in Animals: Strategies for the Developing World, 2023.

2. Akram M, Anwar H, Khan FS, Kausar S, Sultana S, Sołowski G, Elbossaty WF, Ben Said M. Glycogen as an Effective Target in Cancer Therapy. In Handbook of Cancer and Immunology, 2023, 1-12.

Original research article and reviews published during the five last years:

1. Maitre A, Kratou M, Corona-Guerrero I, Abuin-Denis L, Mateos-Hernández L, Mosqueda J, Almazan C, Ben Said M, Piloto-Sardiñas E, Obregon D, Cabezas-Cruz A. Differential interactions of Rickettsia species with tick microbiota in *Rh. sanguineus* and *Rh. turanicus*. *Sci Rep.* 2024 Sep 5;14(1):20674. doi: 10.1038/s41598-024-71539-4. PMID: 39237587; PMCID: PMC11377539, Quartile 1.

2. Ijaz M, Chen CC, Iqbal RK, Farooq HA, Mehmood R, Asif M, Akbar A, Khan A, Ijaz W, Ben Said M, Wondmie GF, Ibenmoussa S, Okla MK, Iqbal F. Genetic polymorphisms in FABP2, CYP2E1, and TP53 genes are potentially associated with colorectal cancer susceptibility. *Sci Rep.* 2024 Sep 3;14(1):20464. doi: 10.1038/s41598-024-70381-y. PMID: 39242607, Quartile 1.

3. Kratou M, Maitre A, Abuin-Denis L, Piloto-Sardiñas E, Corona-Guerrero I, Cano-Argüelles AL, Wu-Chuang A, Bamgbose T, Almazan C, Mosqueda J, Obregón D, Mateos-Hernández L, Ben Said M, Cabezas-Cruz A. Disruption of bacterial interactions and community assembly in *Babesia*-infected *Haemaphysalis longicornis* following antibiotic treatment. *BMC Microbiol.* 2024 Sep 5;24(1):322. doi: 10.1186/s12866-024-03468-1. PMID: 39237861; PMCID: PMC11378419, Quartile 2.

4. Tariq M, Badshah F, Khan MS, Ibáñez-Arancibia E, De los Ríos-Escalante PR, Khan NU, Naeem S, Manzoor A, Tahir R, Mubashir M, Ilyas M, Manzoor GA, and Ben Said M. Prevalence of trypanosomiasis caused by *Trypanosoma evansi* (Kinetoplastea, Trypanosomatidae) in domestic ruminants from Southern Punjab, Pakistan, *Veterinary World*, 2024, 17(9): 1955-1965.

5. Tayh G, Fhoula I, Ben Said M, Boudabous A, Ben Slama K. Prevalence and characterization of quinolone resistance and integrons in clinical Gram-negative isolates from Gaza strip, Palestine. *Mol Biol Rep.* 2024 Jul 27;51(1):855. doi: 10.1007/s11033-024-09721-0. PMID: 39066817, Quartile 2.

6. Begum N, Shams S, Badshah F, Khattak I, Khan MS, Khan NU, Naz W, Ibáñez-Arancibia E, Ríos-Escalante PRDL, Hassan S, and Ben Said M. Prevalence and determination of species distribution of *Eimeria* in poultry from the Swabi district, Pakistan, *Veterinary World*, 2024, 17(9): 1983-1989.

7. Skičková Š, Kratou M, Svobodová K, Maitre A, Abuin-Denis L, Wu-Chuang A, Obregón D, Ben Said M, Majláthová V, Krejčí A, Cabezas-Cruz A. Functional redundancy and niche specialization in honeybee and *Varroa* microbiomes. *Int Microbiol.* 2024 Aug 22. doi: 10.1007/s10123-024-00582-y. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 39172274, Quartile 2.

8. Safarov A, Abdunabiyev O, Akramova F, Ben Said M. Epidemiological investigation of *Dirofilaria immitis* in dogs and mosquitoes from Samarkand region, Uzbekistan. *Frontiers in Veterinary Science*, 2024, 11, 1444275, Quartile 1.

9. Khudhair YI, Rhyif AG, Mayea KQ, Ben Said M. Prevalence, clinico-epidemiological features, and molecular characterization of bovine papular stomatitis virus in cattle in Iraq. *Arch Virol.* 2024 Jun 21;169(7):152. doi: 10.1007/s00705-024-06061-z, Quartile 2.

10. Tsai KH, Batool S, Khan A, Cossío-Bayúgar R, Swelum AA, Niaz S, Nasreen N, Ben Said M, Khan A. Infestation prevalence, spatio-temporal distribution, phylogenetic positioning, and pathogen investigation of *Argas persicus* ticks in domestic hens (*Gallus gallus domesticus*) from Pakistan. *Vet Parasitol Reg Stud Reports.* 2024 Jul;52:101044. doi: 10.1016/j.vprsr.2024.101044. Epub 2024 May 22. PMID: 38880575, Quartile 2.

11. Selmi R, Belkahia H, Tayh G, Mezzi A, Chibani S, Ben Said M, Messadi L. First detection of *Rickettsia felis* and *Ehrlichia canis* in the common bed bug *Cimex lectularius*. *Comp Immunol Microbiol Infect Dis.* 2024 Jul;110:102200. doi: 10.1016/j.cimid.2024.102200. Epub 2024 May 14. PMID: 38788400, Quartile 1.

12. Nazeer N, Masood Z, Ben Said M, Khan T, Ullah A, Ali W, Swelum AA. Impacts of Some Trace Metals in *Cyprinus carpio* (Linnaeus, 1758) and *Tor soro* (Valenciennes, 1842) on Human Health. *Biol Trace Elem Res.* 2024 Jun;202(6):2843-2854. doi: 10.1007/s12011-023-03852-4. Epub 2023 Sep 19. PMID: 37725316, Quartile 1.

13. Ahmad G, Masud A, Naeem M, Ghafar A, Muqaddas H, Qamar MF, Swelum AA, Al-Garadi MA, Jabir MS, Ben Said M, Khan A, Iqbal F. Molecular prevalence, phylogeny and hematological impact of *Toxoplasma gondii* and *Plasmodium* spp. in common quails from Punjab, Pakistan. *PLoS One.* 2024 May 31;19(5):e0304179. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0304179. PMID: 38820542; PMCID: PMC11142681, Quartile 1.

14. Riaz M, Chang SC, Tasawar Z, Sajid M, Nasreen N, Amaro-Estrada I, Cossío-Bayúgar R, de la Fuente J, Alanazi AD, Chen CC, Khan A, Ben Said M. Molecular Epidemiology and Phylogeny of *Theileria ovis* and *Theileria lestoquardi* in Sheep and Goats from Southern Punjab, Pakistan. *Vector Borne Zoonotic Dis.* 2024 May 14. doi: 10.1089/vbz.2023.0118. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 38743635, Quartile 2.

15. Nahal A, Ben Said M, Ouchene N. Current status of ruminant anaplasmosis in Algeria: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *Trop Anim Health Prod.* 2024 May 14;56(4):164. doi: 10.1007/s11250-024-04010-1. PMID: 38740638, Quartile 2.

16. Seidi S, Tavassoli M, Malekifard F, Ben Said M. Molecular Identification, Multigenic Characterization and Phylogenetic Analysis of *Ctenocephalides Canis* Fleas from Humans and Domestic Animals in Iran. *Acta Parasitol.* 2024 Jun;69(2):1219-1230. doi: 10.1007/s11686-024-00846-7. Epub 2024 Apr 25. PMID: 38662073, Quartile 3.

17. Khudhair YI, Ayyez HN, Quiroz-Castañeda RE, Martínez-Ocampo F, Ben Said M. Draft genome sequencing of *Brucella melitensis* isolated from aborted Iraqi sheep. *Microbiol Resour Announc.* 2024 Apr 11;13(4):e0121323. doi: 10.1128/mra.01213-23. Epub 2024 Mar 15. PMID: 38488371; PMCID: PMC11008155,

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19. Ullah W, Khan A, Niaz S, Al-Garadi MA, Nasreen N, Swelum AA, Ben Said M. Epidemiological survey, molecular profiling and phylogenetic analysis of cutaneous leishmaniasis in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan. *Trans R Soc Trop Med Hyg.* 2024 Apr 6;118(4):273-286. doi: 10.1093/trstmh/trad086. PMID: 38055843, Quartile 2.
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23. Naiel MA, Shehata AM, Paswan VK, Ben Said M, El-Tarabily KA. Utilizing the potential of *Saussurea lappa* in aquaculture industry: a review on immune enhancement and pollution remediation. *Aquaculture International*, 2024, 1-38, Quartile 2.
24. Wajid A, Maqsood Q, Ben Said M, Sherzada S, Nooruzzaman M, Batool A, Yin R, Sabra M, Hanif A, Azam Kakar M, Hussain T, Ahmed N. Geographic distribution and genetic diversity of Newcastle disease virus in pigeons from Pakistan. *Avian Pathol.* 2024 Apr;53(2):134-145. doi: 10.1080/03079457.2023.2291107. Epub 2024 Jan 25. PMID: 38037737, Quartile 1.
25. Zhioua E, Dachraoui K, Younsi H, Ben Said M, Selmi S, Sghier S, Kais Ben-Ahmed, Rim Abdelmalek, Mohamed Aziz Dargouth, Stuart Dowall. Epidemiology of Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever virus in Tunisia, North Africa: a One Health approach toward prevention and control. *IJID One Health*, 2024, 2, 100023, Indexed.
26. Ali SA, Niaz S, Nasreen N, Khan A, Shafeeq S, Aguilar-Marcelino L, Safi WA, Zaki MA, De La Fuente J, Ben Said M. Temporal and spatial patterns of *Trichuris trichiura* eggs: a potential threat to human health in Pakistan. *Helminthologia.* 2024 Apr 23;61(1):11-19. doi: 10.2478/helm-2024-0009. PMID: 38659469; PMCID: PMC11038264, Quartile 3.
27. Selmi R, Abdi K, Belkahia H, Abdallah MB, Mamlouk A, Kratou M, Ben Said M, Messadi L. Detection and genetic identification of *Borrelia lusitaniae* in questing *Ixodes inopinatus* tick from Tunisia. *Infect Med (Beijing).* 2024 Feb 22;3(1):100093. doi: 10.1016/j.imj.2024.100093. PMID: 38586546; PMCID: PMC10998273, Quartile 3.
28. Ullah S, Huang JS, Khan A, Cossío-Bayúgar R, Nasreen N, Niaz S, Khan A, Yen TY, Tsai KH, Ben Said M. First report of *Anaplasma* spp., *Ehrlichia* spp., and *Rickettsia* spp. in *Amblyomma gervaisi* ticks infesting monitor lizards (*Varanus begalensis*) of Pakistan. *Infect Genet Evol.* 2024 Mar;118:105569. doi: 10.1016/j.meegid.2024.105569. Epub 2024 Feb 13. PMID: 38354994, Quartile 1.
29. Akramova F, Shakarbaev U, Paluaniyazova D, Akbarov A, Khalikov S, Safarov A, Azimov D, Ben Said M. Assessing the effectiveness of fenbendazole supramolecular complexes against schistosomiasis, moniezirosis and parabrionemosis in sheep. *Exp Parasitol.* 2024 Mar;258:108714. doi: 10.1016/j.exppara.2024.108714. Epub 2024 Feb 16. PMID: 38367946, Quartile 3.
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32. Sajid M, Naqvi SAH, Marral MWR, Ben Said M. Evaluating serum electrolyte and trace element variations between *Babesia ovis*-infected and uninfected Lohi sheep. *German Journal of Veterinary Research*, 2024, 4(2), 75-87, Quartile 2.
33. Khattak I, Usman T, Swelum AA, Nasreen N, Khan A, Haider J, Muhammad J, Chen CC, Ben Said M. *Toxoplasma gondii* infection in small ruminants from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan: Seroprevalence, spatial distribution and associated risk factors. *Vet Parasitol Reg Stud Reports.* 2024 Jan;47:100979. doi: 10.1016/j.vprsr.2023.100979. Epub 2023 Dec 28. PMID: 38199687, Quartile 2.
34. Selmi R, Mamlouk A, Belkahia H, Ben Yahia H, Abdelaali H, Jemli MH, Ben Said M, Messadi L. Serological and molecular survey of brucellosis and chlamydiosis in dromedary camels from Tunisia. *Comp Immunol Microbiol Infect Dis.* 2024 Jan;104:102098. doi: 10.1016/j.cimid.2023.102098. Epub 2023 Nov 15. PMID: 38007988, Quartile 1.
35. Afgan S, Yaqoob I, Latif M, Sajid Z, Akram K, Mujtaba G, Hussain M, Farooq M, Ben Said M, Furhan Iqbal. Association of GSTT1, GSTM1 and SNP rs1695 in GSTP1 with the Incidence of Rheumatoid Arthritis in Southern Punjab, Pakistan: A Case-Control Study. *Pakistan J. Zool.*, 2023, 56(5), 2375-2382, Quartile 4.
36. Khattak I, Akhtar A, Shams S, Usman T, Haider J, Nasreen N, Khan A, Ben Said M. Diversity, prevalence and risk factors associated to gastrointestinal tract parasites in wild and domestic animals from Pakistan. *Parasitol Int.* 2023 Dec;97:102777. doi: 10.1016/j.parint.2023.102777. Epub 2023 Jul 11. PMID: 37442336, Quartile 2.
37. Badshah F, Ullah K, Kamal M, Rafiq N, Usman T, Ríos-Escalante PRL, Ben Said M. Epidemiological analysis of anaplasmosis in cattle from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan. *Vet World.* 2023 Nov;16(11):2287-2292. doi: 10.14202/vetworld.2023.2287-2292. Epub 2023 Nov 19. PMID: 38152261; PMCID: PMC10750754, Quartile 2.
38. Riaz M, Nasreen N, Khan A, Ben Said M. Differential diagnosis of theileriosis through blood smear examination and polymerase chain reaction in small ruminants from Pakistan. *Open Vet J.* 2023 Jun;13(6):697-704. doi: 10.5455/OVJ.2023.v13.i6.4. Epub 2023 Jun 6. PMID: 37545708; PMCID: PMC10399653, Quartile 2.
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41. Rasul S, Rashid A, Akram M, Laila U, Zainab R, Khalil MT, Mbaye HS, Ben Said M, Alharbi HN, Alabed H, Shahin M. Anti-Cancer and Anti-Fungal Activities of *Calotropis procera*: a Narrative Review. *World Journal of Cancer and Oncology Research*, 2023, 102-121, Indexed.
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47. Kratou M, Belkahia H, Selmi R, Andolsi R, Dhibi M, Mhadhbi M, Messadi L, Ben Said M. Diversity and Phylogeny of Cattle Ixodid Ticks and Associated Spotted Fever Group *Rickettsia* spp. in Tunisia. *Pathogens*. 2023 Apr 3;12(4):552. doi: 10.3390/pathogens12040552. PMID: 37111438; PMCID: PMC10146803, Quartile 2.
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infecting camels (*Camelus dromedarius*) and their ticks. Ticks Tick Borne Dis. 2019 Oct;10(6):101260. doi: 10.1016/j.ttbdis.2019.07.004. Epub 2019 Jul 12. PMID: 31327747, Quartile 1.

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Encadrement

Official supervision and participation in the supervision of diplomas:

1- Official supervision

I officially supervised **12 students** in Research **Master's degree**: "Molecular Biology and Health" and I was the ISBST supervisor of **10 students** in four **end-of-study projects** all done in order to obtain the Applied License in Biotechnology. I am currently supervising **three PhD students** in Biological Sciences.

Research Masters (Molecular Biology and Health):

- Chayma CHERNI Master's degree entitled: "Molecular surveillance of *Anaplasma* and *Ehrlichia* bacteria in sheep from northern Tunisia", presented on November 29, 2016.
- Raouaa GHRIBI Master's degree entitled "Molecular detection and multigenic typing of *Anaplasma ovis* bacteria in ticks of the genus *Rhipicephalus* infesting small ruminants in northern Tunisia", presented on December 27, 2017.
- Alaa BEL ASKER Master's degree entitled: "Molecular surveillance and multigenic characterization of *Anaplasma marginale* bacteria in cattle of northern Tunisia", presented on December 30, 2017.
- Sayed ZAMITI Master's degree entitled: "Molecular prevalence, genotyping and phylogenetic analysis of *Rickettsia* bacteria in ticks of the genus *Rhipicephalus* from northern Tunisia", presented on December 11, 2018.
- Mohamed Hamza Rhouma Master's degree entitled: « Phylogenetic study and analysis of the genetic diversity of *Anaplasma ovis* infecting ruminants and their ticks in Tunisia», presented on December 09, 2019.
- Rihab Andolsi Master's degree entitled: «Molecular screening of *Anaplasma marginale* in cattle and their associated ticks from northern Tunisia, phylogeographic characterization of the revealed isolates and evaluation of the conservation of the OmpA protein vaccine candidate », presented on December 24, 2020.
- Myriam Kratou Master's degree entitled: "Molecular screening, multigene analysis, and phylogenetic study of *Rickettsia* bacteria in ticks infesting cattle from northern Tunisia," presented on December 3, 2021.
- Abir Mhamdi Master's degree entitled: "Molecular prevalence, genotyping, and phylogenetic analysis of the bacterium *Candidatus Midichloria mitochondrii* in ticks from cattle in northern Tunisia," presented on December 22, 2021.
- Amani Jomli Master's degree entitled: "Application of 16S rRNA, 12S rRNA, and COI markers in the identification and genetic characterization of tick species of the *Hyalomma* genus in Tunisia," presented on December 1, 2023.

End of study projects (Applied License of Biotechnology):

- End-of-study project of Mariem BEN HASSEN entitled: "Molecular surveillance of *Anaplasma phagocytophilum* and its genetically related strains in goats of northern Tunisia", presented on June 14, 2016 as a supervisor of ISBST.
- End-of-study project of Imen NASRALLI and Khaoula KHRAIFI entitled: "Molecular prevalence of *Anaplasma ovis* bacteria in ticks of the genus *Rhipicephalus*", presented on June 14, 2016 as a supervisor of ISBST.
- End of study project of Aymen KHIARI and Oumaima HAYOUNI titled: "Control and follow-up of a finished product Primalan Fort 10 mg tablets", born on 09 June 2017 as an ISBST tutor.
- End of study project of Malek BOUZOURAA and Wiem ZAGHOJANI entitled: "Assistance to the pharmaceutical transfer of manufacturing processes of two forms of a generic product Montelukast", presented on June 10, 2017 as an ISBST tutor.

2- Participation in the supervision:

In addition, I participated in the supervision of **two PhD students in Biology** (one finished and another in progress), **another student** in a **Master's degree** (FS Tunis), **two students** in **Professional Masters** (ISBB) and the supervision of **13 DVM thesis in Veterinary Medicine** at the ENMV of Sidi Thabet, Tunisia.

PhD in Biology (FSB and ENMV):

- PhD of Hanène Belkahia entitled: "Detection, prevalence and molecular characterization of bacterial species of *Anaplasma* genus and study of co-infection cases with the complex *Borrelia burgdorferi* sensu lato in ruminants in Tunisia", presented on January 23, 2016.
- PhD of Rachid Selmi entitled: "Prevalence and molecular characterization of vector-borne bacteria infecting camels and their ticks in Tunisia", from 2015 to the present.

Research Master degree:

- Master of Narjesse MABROUK entitled "Bacteria of *Anaplasma* genus: Study of the molecular prevalence of infections and co-infections in goats in northern Tunisia", presented on March 19, 2016.

Theses in Veterinary Medicine (ENMV):

- Thesis of Mouna Yahiaoui-Gharsallah entitled: "Contribution to the epidemiological study of granulocytic anaplasmosis ovine in a region of northern Tunisia, El Alia (governorate of Bizerte)", presented on June 20, 2012.
- Thesis of Dorra Hattab entitled: "Study of the molecular prevalence of bovine anaplasmosis to *Anaplasma phagocytophilum* in the delegations of Utica, El Alia and Mateur (Governorate of Bizerte)", presented on May 04, 2013.
- Thesis of Feten Messaoudi entitled: "Study of the prevalence of *Anaplasma ovis* using the molecular technique LAMP in sheep of the delegation of El Alia (governorate of Bizerte)", presented on 01 July 2013.
- Thesis of Manel Zhioua entitled: "Study of the molecular prevalence of *Borrelia burgdorferi* sensu lato agent of the Lyme disease in the sheep and equines of El

Alia region"; presented on April 27, 2013.

- Thesis of Zakia Issaoui entitled: "Study of the molecular prevalence of bovine anaplasmosis by *Anaplasma marginale* in the delegations of Utica, El Alia and Mateur (Bizerte Governorate)"; presented on May 11, 2013.

- Thesis of Maha Bousrih entitled: "Epidemiological and molecular study of anaplasmosis by *Anaplasma phagocytophilum* in goats in the governorates of Bizerte and Beja"; presented on June 06, 2014.