

Pulchérie MATSODOUM NGUEMTE

Home Country	Cameroon
Degree	PhD in Plant Biotechnology
Expertise	Biotechnology, Environmental Science
Research Focus	Cleaning of Hydrocarbon-Polluted Soils
Host University	University of Strasbourg, France
Fellowship Awarded`	2015

Pulchérie Matsodoum Nguemte is from the West region of Cameroon, the smallest of the country's ten regions and having the highest population density. She was the third born in a family of eight children. She excelled at primary school in Douala and completed her school education in Yaoundé, the capital of Cameroon, with a Baccalaureate from the Lycée Général Leclerc.

Pulchérie studied at the Faculty of Science of the University of Yaoundé I, where in 2010 she received a BSc in Plant Biology and Physiology. This was followed in 2013 by an MSc in Plant Biotechnology. She is now in joint guardianship between the University of Yaoundé I and the University of Strasbourg to conduct her PhD studies.

The PhD research relates to phytoremediation – the use of living plants to clean soil, air, and water contaminated with hazardous chemicals. In particular she is focusing on the identification of tropical plant species that can help clean soils polluted by hydrocarbons. Accidental spillage of petroleum products may occur in several industries and activities, where they can potentially damage the environment and biodiversity. If passed into drinking water or food crops, these chemicals can also contribute to diseases such as cancer. Pulchérie's interest in the topic relates to sustainable economic development while protecting people and the environment from the effects of pollution, and her project is in line with the Cameroon government's "Vision 2035" objectives for sustainable growth. Pulchérie expects that the results of her research will benefit the work of the country's Ministry of Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development, and will also be of interest to petroleum-related industries in tropical regions around the world.

After completion of her PhD, Pulchérie plans to return to teaching and research at the University of Yaoundé I. She also hopes to establish a non-governmental organization focused on phytoremediation, and to work on environmental protection projects in Cameroon.