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Nationality: Italian
Date of birth: 01/10/1996
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Education:

- PhD student in Animal and Food Science (2022-)
- Master student in Animal Science and Technologies (2019-2021)
- Bachelor student in Safety of Animal Production (2015-2019)

Research areas:

- Animal Science and Technology...
- Insects breeding
- Products quality

Brief description of Ph.D project:

Insects have been identified as a source of innovative feed to improve the sustainability of animal production, and as food for humans. From a nutritional point of view, insects are an excellent source of nutrients; proteins represent the main component but they also contain a good lipid quantity and specifically high

levels of polyunsaturated fatty acids, accompanied by high levels of vitamins and minerals.

The Ph.D project will insist on the insect breeding sector, a rapidly growing segment at national and international level. In insect farming, the choice, processing, and quality of rearing substrates are key aspects: this will be the research core. The research will be developed and conducted in interaction with a local insect company. The first objective is to improve the laying efficiency of *Tenebrio molitor* breeders through feed strategies in order to reduce feed costs, without compromising production yields, and to identify raw materials with low environmental impact, locally sourced and easily available, cheap, but nutritionally rich. The second objective is to enhance the insect products, through the study of functional substrates for feeding insects and the qualitative evaluation of the products obtained. These substrates are intended both to obtain an improvement in the nutritional quality of the final product (meal larva with superior nutritional and functional value), as well as in the productive performance and health of the larva itself.

Supervisor:

Antonella Dalle Zotte