Research Project Title: Horizontal Gene Transfer of Chloroplast Genes in the Parasitic Plant Balanophora.

Faculty Mentor: Professor Jianhua Li, Biology

Research Project Description #3: Some plants lose their chlorophyll and get their food from their host plants. They are known as parasitic plants. Recently, people have found that some genes get transferred between host and the parasitic plants. We are working on Balanophora, a mushroom like plant in Southeast Asia, to test whether there is any gene flow in the parasite-host system.