



Pr. Asuncion MORTE

Head of the “Mycology-Mycorrhizae-Plant Biotechnology” group, University of Murcia

Asunción Morte is Full Professor of Murcia, Spain, specializing in botany within the Department of Plant Biology. She leads the “Mycology-Mycorrhizae-Plant Biotechnology” research group, which focuses on desert truffles-hypogeous fungi belonging to the ascomycete family.

Her groundbreaking work in mycorrhizal symbiosis has enabled the first-ever successful field production and cultivation of these fungi, a process coined as “turmiculture” by her team. This innovation combines techniques for mycorrhized plant production, soil management, and truffle harvesting.

Morte’s research has significantly advanced the understanding of the ecological and biological factors influencing desert truffle fruiting. Her studies have elucidated abiotic and biotic interactions between fungi and host plants, revealed the heterothallic nature of these fungi, and contributed to the discovery of new species.

These findings are pivotal for addressing challenges like climate change and desertification, as desert truffles play an essential role in sustaining ecosystems in arid environments.

