

2021 James R. Welch Scholarship

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I would like to apply for the James R. Welch Scholarship by the Association of Applied Paleontological Sciences to continue leading the field research on macrofossil in the district of Analalava, Mahajanga, in northwestern Madagascar. I recently earned my Masters' degree in Paleontology and Museology from the Faculty of Sciences, Technology, and Environment (FSTE), University of Mahajanga, Madagascar, during which I was actively leading field research and collected fossils and archaeological objects. Findings from my thesis are being prepared for scientific publications.

I would like to expand my skills and leadership capability in leading field research in Paleontology and Museology, the fundamental experience of which I gained while being a MSc. student at FSTE. With this, I plan to continue further in research and I plan to pursue a PhD program at the University of Mahajanga, where I could be actively do field work. My PhD thesis will examine macro fossils from Mahajanga. The topic will focus on the inventory and conservation of invertebrate macrofossils of the District of Analalava, Mahajanga, Madagascar.

This scholarship will tremendously help me do field research, as I do not have any other sources of funding (plus I am a graduate student from low-income country). You may also notice that I have applied for the Charles Sternberg Scholarship. Whichever scholarship I will receive, the money will be used to carry out research in the field and to defray costs related to travel, field expenses, transport of samples, and preparation and conservation of the collections. This funding will give me a great opportunity to collect the remains of fossil invertebrates from the District of Analalava on a large scale.

I wish to continue my career on the physical paleoanthropological study of Homo's subfossils. My long-term future career plan is to continue paleontological research in academia, with which I may further specialize in paleoecological and biostratigraphic study of the fossils collected.