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Fabiola is originally from Querétaro, México and achieved her BSc in Physics, with a minor in Industrial Technology, at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, USA. Fabiola completed an internship in a Neurobiology lab in México, which led to an interest in life sciences.

### **“Investigating blue leaf iridescence of *Phyllagathis rotundifolia*”**

Plants native to the forest floor have been seen to display iridescence, meaning the colour of light reflected changes depending on the viewing angle. This phenomenon arises from tightly packed and ordered stacks of thylakoid membranes inside chloroplasts. These remarkable structures are termed iridoplasts. In some species, these structures have showed improved solar light harvesting, enhancing the photosynthetic quantum yield by up to 10% in low light conditions.<sup>1</sup> I will discuss the dynamic iridescence of *Phyllataghis rotundifolia*, and what the reversible change in peak reflection wavelength (from blue to green) on minutes timescales reveals about the photosynthetic function of this plant species.

#### Reference

Jacobs, M., Lopez-Garcia, M., Phrathep, O.-P., Lawson, T., Oulton, R. & Whitney, H. M., Photonic multilayer structure of Begonia chloroplasts enhances photosynthetic efficiency. *Nat Plants*, 2, 16162 (2016).