



Teresa Fonseca, Early Years

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Teresa was born in Lourenço Marques, then the capital of the old Portuguese east coast African colony. She stayed there throughout independence in 1975 and joined the University of Porto in 1977.

From the very beginning she stood out as a student and her outstanding talent as a researcher was first noticed in the preparation of her graduation dissertation on "Simulation of ESR Spectra of Nitroxide Radicals - Slow Rotation", under the supervision of Professor Alberto Amaral. She was able to master this complex topic admirably, finding ways of filling the background uncovered during the course.

She finished her degree, with flying colours, two years younger than her colleagues and, in October 1980, she enrolled in a rather difficult M.Sc. course in Theoretical Chemistry in Porto which, again, she finished successfully. I, myself, as one of the participating lecturers, was impressed with her keen interest on the different subjects and her ease in solving any scientific challenges.

Soon afterwards, she established close contacts with Pisa which were to last for six years and are beautifully described by Paolo Grigolini in his following paper.