

Two PhD scholarships in host-pathogen interactions and insect immunocompetence

Department of Plant and Environmental Sciences, Faculty of Science at the University of Copenhagen (UCPH) is offering two PhD scholarships in host-pathogen interactions, one commencing on the 1st of April, and the other on the 1st of May 2015.

The application deadline for both positions

is the 1st of January 2015.

Project description

Organisms in most ecosystems are exposed to parasites and pathogens, increasingly in combination with chronic exposure to sub-lethal concentrations of pesticides. Recent studies indicate that combined exposure to pathogenic and chemical stress may lead to more profound disease manifestation. An interdisciplinary research project at UCPH headed by Associate Professor Brian Lund Fredensborg is developing a conceptual insect-pathogen model to explore the impact of chemical stress on host and pathogen parameters. The successful applicants will join a dynamic team working on unraveling the mechanisms behind the combined effects of low doses of pesticides (pyrethroids and azoles) and two different pathogens, a fungus and a tapeworm, on the beetle *Tenebrio molitor*. The project provides an excellent opportunity to gain a broad set of state-of-the-art laboratory skills, and for interdisciplinary collaborations.

PhD student 1: Host-Pathogen interactions Starting date: 1st of April 2015 The main task is to experimentally quantify host and pathogen fitness parameters in relation to chemical stress from pesticides. The successful applicant preferably has a background in host-parasite or host-pathogen interactions using an experimental and ecological approach.

Information on applying for this position may be found on:

<http://employment.ku.dk/phd/?show=700643>

PhD student 2: Insect immunocompetence Starting date: 1st of May 2015 The main task is to identify and quantify host immune response parameters to pathogen infection in relation to chemical stress from pesticides. The successful applicant preferably has a background in host-pathogen interactions. Knowledge on the use of immunological and molecular methods is advantageous. Experience with invertebrate immune response to infection using an experimental approach is particularly relevant.

Information on applying for this position may be found on:

<http://employment.ku.dk/phd/?show=700746>

Only electronic applications will be accepted. Inquiries are welcome and may be sent to Associate Professor Brian Lund Fredensborg, e-mail:

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