

Molecular Entomologist / Ecologist: Harpenden, United Kingdom

Established in 1843, Rothamsted Research is one of the UK's leading Research Institutes delivering world-class agricultural science.

Molecular Entomologist / Ecologist

Location: Harpenden, Hertfordshire

The Rothamsted Insect Survey (RIS) is a BBSRC-supported National Capability, attracting additional funding from Research Councils, crop levy boards, the agrochemical industry and others. We are seeking an entomologist with expertise in molecular techniques to play a leading role in the exploitation of the RIS long-term collection of specimens from the UK suction-trap network, and current specimens from the suction-trap and light-trap networks.

The RIS has operated both networks for more than 50 years and the data have seen a wide range of applications spanning the full fundamental to applied spectrum, particularly in ecology, conservation and pest control. Daily samples are taken from 16 suction-traps and more than 80 light-traps. Aphids are the prime subjects of the suction-trap network and larger moths of the light-trap network. Since 1974, all samples from the suction-trap network have been stored, facilitating studies on other taxa. Molecular diagnostics have been used to identify mutations causing insecticide resistance in aphids, and this information has proved invaluable in charting incidence and spread of various resistance mechanisms. However, there is much potential in modern molecular techniques to exploit further the unique RIS collections, for example in:

- assessing and predicting clonal turnover in aphids in relation to environmental and agronomic factors;
- identifying the presence of phytopathogenic or entomopathogenic viruses in aphids and other insects;
- identifying parasitoids in aphids and other insects;
- recognising cryptic species or subspecies which may vary in their pathogenicity to crops;
- monitoring for invasive species.

The successful candidate will be expected to raise the profile of the RIS through exploiting and

promoting its resources, and will have a proven track record in securing funding, producing high impact publications and promoting entomological science in the UK and internationally.

This is an Indefinite Contract at Band D with a starting salary normally within the region of Â£29,842 to Â£41,438 per annum.

Rothamsted Research, Harpenden Site is located within commuting distance of Central London. We have access to excellent local and leisure facilities, on-site nursery and play scheme 25 days holiday and an attractive benefits package. Our commitment to training and development, as well as equality and diversity, create a welcoming environment for all prospective employees.

As users of the disability symbol, Rothamsted Research guarantees to interview all disabled applicants who meet the minimum criteria for our vacancies.