

PHD STUDENT POSITION in INSECT TAXONOMY / BIODIVERSITY INFORMATICS

The position forms part of a group of 15 PhD students now being recruited to the EU-funded Marie Skłodowska-Curie Innovative Training Network BIG4. The core of BIG4 is interdisciplinary, cutting-edge research on the diversity and evolution of the four largest insect orders:

Hymenoptera, Diptera, Coleoptera, and Lepidoptera ('Biosystematics, Informatics and Genomics of the 4 big insect groups'). The program offers unique opportunities in terms of preparing students for an academic or a business career. The training will include secondment to other European labs in the network, and to small companies in the biotechnology and IT sector. The program also includes network-wide training events, and seeks to build student skills in creativity and innovation.

The position is one of three PhD student positions that will be formally associated with the Department of Zoology at Stockholm University, which will award the PhD degrees. The position will be hosted by Savantic AB (<http://savanticab.com>), a consultant company specializing in bridging the gap between the research and business worlds. All consultants have a doctoral degree in physics. Specialty areas include image analysis, medical technology and environmental technology. The academic training will be provided by the Ronquist lab at the Swedish Museum of Natural History, which is one of the world leaders in the development of software for computational phylogenomics using Bayesian statistical methods. The lab also has a strong research tradition in insect systematics and evolutionary biology.

The successful candidate for this position will focus on the use of citizen science in accelerating research and discovery in insect systematics. For a suitable group of poorly known insects, we will develop visual identification aids based on advanced image analysis. The aim is to generate interest among citizen scientists in contributing to the systematic research on the chosen group, using a commercially viable app.

We are looking for candidates with a broad background, preferably including studies or training in entomology, genomics, bioinformatics, and programming. We expect that you will be creative and independent while being a good team player. Fluency in spoken and written English is essential. We will pay particular attention to scientific and creative talent and potential.

To be eligible for the position, you need to fill the formal requirements to start a PhD program in biology, broadly construed, and have less than 4 years of research experience counted as time of employment in research since receiving the degree for enrollment in a PhD. You cannot have resided or carried out your main activity (work or study) in Sweden for more than 12 months in the 3-year period immediately prior to the recruitment under the project.

Starting date is August 15, 2015. The position is for four years.

The Swedish Museum of Natural History (NRM) is one of the leading institutions of its kind in Europe. It combines a venerable tradition and unique collections with cutting-edge research in geology, paleontology and biology. The museum is close to Stockholm University, the Royal School of Engineering (KTH) and the Karolinska Institute. The Stockholm Phylogenomics Group (<http://phylogenomics.se>) engages research groups from all of these institutions. The Department of Bioinformatics and Genetics at NRM is focused on research in computational phylogenetics, population genetics and genomics. We run a DNA sequencing facility and host several national and international infrastructures.

The application should consist of a personal letter, a statement describing research interests and career goals (max 3 pages), a CV, and a transcript of your MSc diploma or equivalent. The application should be sent to Karin Carlsson at Savantic AB (karin@savanticab.com). **Applications should be received no later than May 29, 2015.**

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