

Assistant Project Scientist in Insect Behavior, Physiology, and Symbiont Biology

The Department of Entomology at the University of California, Riverside invites applicants for an Assistant Project Scientist position to conduct applied research in the Mauck Lab. The purpose of this position is performance of research and creative project activities in the following areas: Biology and behavior of insects in the superfamily Psylloidea, biology and behavior of *Bemisia tabaci*, plant resistance to insect and pathogen attack, phloem biology and transport, chemical ecology, proteomics and transcriptomics, comparative genomics of plant-infecting pathogens, endosymbiont biology and evolution, and phylogeography. The employee will be expected to coordinate research activities for projects covering these areas, including contributions to troubleshooting, innovating experimental designs and protocols, data analysis, and manuscript writing. As part of these duties, the employee will also be involved in training personnel from the undergraduate to graduate level. The employee will be expected to establish a research program involving the areas described above with progress to be evaluated through assessment of research outputs (publications and assistance with funding application and grant proposals) and contributions towards training and supervision of students participating in relevant projects.

Required qualifications for this position include:

- Ph.D. in Entomology, Agrobiolology/Agrochemistry, Life Sciences or a related field. Ph.D. candidates must have their degree by the date of hire.
- 2-3 years of postdoctoral training in areas of study relevant to the position description.
- Strong publication record (at least 15+ peer-reviewed publications, with the majority as first author).
- Experience with and demonstrated expertise in (by publications) molecular phylogenetics.
- Experience with and demonstrated expertise in (by publications) insect behavior.
- Experience with and demonstrated expertise in (by publications) molecular wet lab techniques, including nucleic acid extractions, purification, sequencing.
- Demonstrated knowledge (by publications) of endosymbiont-insect interactions and endosymbiont evolutionary relationships.
- Demonstrated knowledge (by publications) of plant-insect interactions, especially the biology of psyllids of economic importance.
- Evidence of successful mentoring and training of undergraduate and graduate students, especially through co-authorship with mentees.
- Evidence of successful grantsmanship (e.g., competitive post-doctoral fellowships, small grants, or contributions to federally-funded grant proposals).
- Prior experience with the electrical penetration graphing technique, including data analysis and interpretation.

Preferred qualifications for this position include:

- Experience working with, and maintaining colonies of, whiteflies, potato psyllid, and Asian citrus psyllid, aphids and associated host plants.
- Experience in collection and analysis of hemipteran salivary secretions.
- Demonstrated ability to work with small insects, including ability to perform dissections and isolate tissues for downstream analyses.
- Experience with library preparation for RNA-seq experiments.
- Experience with protein extraction, concentration, and quantification.
- Experience with analysis of RNA-seq data.
- Experience with RAD-seq and associated data analyses.

UCR is a world-class research university with an exceptionally diverse undergraduate student body. Its mission is explicitly linked to providing routes to educational success for underrepresented and first-generation college students. A commitment to this mission is a preferred qualification.

The University of California is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, age, disability, protected veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by law.

Advancement through the Project Scientist ranks at the University of California is through a series of structured, merit-based evaluations, occurring every 2-3 years, each of which includes substantial peer input.

To apply: submit a letter of application presenting a case for your fit to the qualifications (minimum 1 page, maximum 2 pages), a complete (long-form) curriculum vitae, Statement of Past and/or Planned Future Contributions to Advancing Diversity and Inclusive Excellence (1 page), three publications relevant to the required/preferred qualifications, and the contact information for three references to <https://aprecruit.ucr.edu/apply/JPF01358>. Review of applications will commence on January 17, 2021 and proceed until position is filled. For full consideration, applicants should submit their complete applications prior to the above date.

For more information about this position, please contact Dr. Kerry Mauck, Chair of the Search Committee, Department of Entomology, at kerry.mauck@ucr.edu. For questions on application procedures and requirements, please contact Ms. Kendall Dunmore, Academic Personnel, at kendall.dunmore@ucr.edu.