

Position Title: Post-doctoral research associate in Molecular Ecology/Applied Entomology

Position Location: University of Florida - Gulf Coast Research and Education Center (GCREC), Balm FL (near Tampa)

Position Summary: The post-doctoral research associate will develop and test methods for molecular detection of trophic interactions among arthropods in central Florida strawberry and blueberry agroecosystems. The associate will join a larger research effort focused on understanding effects of non-crop resource subsidies on pests and their natural enemies. The goal of the project is to use managed habitat (e.g., wildflower strips, hedgerows) to improve ecosystem services such as biological control.

Requirements: PhD degree in molecular biology or ecology with experience or interest in applied ecology/entomology/agriculture OR a PhD degree in entomology with experience using molecular tools to answer ecological or biological control questions. The associate should have evidence of ability in basic PCR and at least some experience with next-generation DNA sequencing (NGS) technologies. The associate will work closely with personnel at the Interdisciplinary Center for Biotechnology Research (ICBR) at UF main campus in Gainesville to study trophic interactions using sequence data. The preferred candidate will also have experience with arthropod identification and taxonomy. Field work and study design will be in conjunction with graduate students and employees in the small fruit IPM lab at GCREC (jmrlab.wordpress.com). Evidence of superior ability in conceiving and executing properly designed experiments, conducting independent, initiative-driven science and publishing in respected peer-reviewed journals should be provided. The associate should articulate how she/he will communicate effectively with team members, scientific audiences, and extension personnel.

Appointment: This a 1-year fixed term position. Depending on availability of funding, additional year(s) may be available. Salary commensurate with experience and the US Fair Labor Standards Act for post-doctoral research associate salaries.

Appointment date: Position is available beginning late spring 2017.

Application materials: CV, cover letter, a 1 page statement of research accomplishments and goals, and the names, addresses, emails and phone numbers of three professional references.

For additional information and to submit application materials:

Dr. Justin Renkema, Gulf Coast Research and Education Center, University of Florida.
justin.renkema@ufl.edu.

The deadline for applications in March 24, 2017 or until a suitable candidate is selected.