

MSc Student

Applied Insect Chemical Ecology

University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

Application Deadline: Position open until filled

Start date: May (preferred) or September 2020

Website: <https://gradpositions.ales.ualberta.ca/>

Qualifications

We are seeking a student with a strong background in entomology, ecology, agriculture, biology or a related discipline (minimum BSc or equivalent). The student will have strong interpersonal skills, be highly motivated, and have a willingness to learn R. Previous research experience and a Class 5 (non-graduated) Driver's license will be considered assets. The successful student will be awarded a stipend of \$21,000 (Canadian) per year (2-year duration).

Description

The canola flower midge, *Contarinia brassicola*, is a recently discovered insect pest of canola on the Canadian Prairies. Damage results when larvae feed on developing flower buds which prevents the flowers from opening and forming pods. The population density of canola flower midge is difficult to evaluate as densities are variable across the species range and damage is discreet and can be easily overlooked except under outbreak conditions. Our recent work identified the female-produced canola flower midge pheromone and optimized the pheromone blend and dose to create a potent male attractant. The student will refine the pheromone trapping system, and evaluate the relationship between adult midges captured in pheromone-baited traps, egg and larval density, and damage in the field. In addition, this project will investigate the abiotic factors (e.g. weather, soil type) that affect midge population densities and explore the midge behavior. Ultimately, this project will create an efficient monitoring tool that may be used to scout and forecast canola flower midge populations.

Application Materials

- A cover letter outlining student interests, relevant experience and career goals
- A current CV and copy of transcripts (unofficial)
- Name and contact information for three (3) references

Submit applications and further questions to:

Dr. Boyd Mori
Assistant Professor
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University of Alberta
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