



Postdoctoral position in Applied Chemical Ecology of Forest Plantation Pests

We seek to hire a postdoctoral research fellow to conduct mission oriented research to develop and improve integrated pest management tactics and strategies for insects affecting plantation forests in South Africa. This position is part of an ongoing collaboration between FABI, University of Pretoria and the Great Lakes Forestry Centre, Canadian Forest Service, and partially supported by funding from Sappi. The successful candidate will conduct research with a primary focus at improving our understanding of the chemical, behavioral and/or population ecology of insect herbivores and their natural enemies in pine and eucalyptus plantations. The ideal candidate will have a background in one or more of the following: insect-plant interactions, insect chemical and behavioral ecology, population and invasion ecology of forest insects. Experience with electrophysiology and analytical chemistry will be an advantage. Projects will combine laboratory and field experiments and the incumbent will be expected to participate in the statistical analysis and publication of data sets. The ideal candidate will be able to work independently and as part of a large team (see www.fabinet.up.ac.za/tpcp).

Required Qualifications: PhD in entomology, integrated pest management, ecology or closely related field; demonstrated analytical/statistical abilities and writing skills; ability to work independently and as part of a team; publication record; driver's license; and be able and willing to do physical field work. Preference will be given to candidates with previous research experience post PhD.

Responsibilities: The post-doc will be responsible for: 1) contributing to the design of experiments that contribute to the development of IPM tactics and strategies to manage plantation forest pests in South Africa; 2) supervising postgraduate students; 3) analyses and publication of ongoing projects; and 4) presenting results at professional, stakeholder and extension meetings.

Compensation: The compensation package for this position is very competitive in South Africa and dependent on experience.

Duration: 12 months, full –time initial appointment with the possibility of 2 years additional support conditional on satisfactory performance (evaluated annually) and the availability of funds.

Review of applicants will begin April 20, 2020 and continue until a suitable candidate is identified. Preferred start date: ASAP following control of the COVID-19 pandemic and associated restrictions.

Application Process: Email to Drs. Jeremy Allison (jeremy.allison@canada.ca) and Bernard Slippers (bernard.slippers@up.ac.za): 1) a cover letter that includes your research interests and qualifications and analytical and writing experience; 2) CV; 3) 1-2 representative publications; and 4) contact information for 3 references.

