

The laboratory of behavioral and chemical ecology in the Department of Entomology at Louisiana State University welcomes applications for MS and PhD students. Our newly established research group seeks individuals who are creative, curious about the natural world, and seek to challenge themselves with interesting problems. In our lab, we ask fundamental questions about the role of abiotic and biotic factors on the evolution and maintenance of chemical diversity, communication, and tri-trophic interactions in forest ecosystems. We are especially interested in developing and testing hypotheses relating to how natural enemies shape the ecology and evolution of woodboring insects. Ultimately, we seek to contribute to our understanding of biotic interactions, as well as use our knowledge of behavior and chemistry to optimize biological control of pests.

We are currently looking for students to start in Summer or Fall 2023, interested in developing projects relating to:

- 1) How environmental variation impacts insect behavior and fitness, especially within the context of biological control or invasive species
- 2) Direct and indirect impacts of invasive species, such as the emerald ash borer, *Agrilus planipennis*, on riparian and bottomland ecosystems within Louisiana

Located in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, the Department of Entomology at Louisiana State University has fifteen faculty members with strengths that include: insect behavior, chemical ecology, integrated pest management, public health, and molecular biology. Further, the Department is home to the Louisiana State Collection of Arthropods, which contains over one million research specimens. Opportunities exist to collaborate and interact with individuals from nearby Departments which include Biological Sciences, Plant Pathology and Crop Physiology, and Renewable and Natural Resources. Lastly, LSU is home to 15 [research centers and institutes](#), including an [instrumentation facility](#) which offers access to sophisticated analytical and microscopic equipment.

Qualifications: All interested students should hold degrees in biological sciences or related disciplines. Students interested in pursuing a doctoral education are expected to have completed a masters degree. Depending on the project, experience with field work and use of dichotomous keys, or behavioral assays and chemical analysis may increase chances of admittance.

Compensation: Admitted students will be provided with a competitive stipend and tuition waiver.

Interested students should send Dr. Todd D. Johnson (ToddJohnson@agcenter.lsu.edu; <http://www.forestentomology.com>): a CV (including GPA and GRE scores and contact information for 3 references) and a statement of research interests and experience (1 pg). Successful applicants will be required to submit an application to LSU Graduate School. Please visit the LSU Department of Entomology website for more information: <https://www.lsu.edu/entomology/prospective/requirements/application-instructions.php>