PhD Push pull strategy for control of Spotted Wing Drosophila (SWD) Drosophila suzukii (suzuki) fruitfly

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Location Wageningen
Scientific field Natural Sciences

We are looking for
A new invasive pest species, the Spotted Wing Drosophila (SWD) Drosophila suzukii, has invaded Europe and already caused millions of euros of damage in the European fruit industry. There is an urgent need to develop new strategies to control the SWD in The Netherlands, as the current practices of control with pesticides are neither effective nor sustainable. We aim to develop an integrated pest management strategy of combined biocontrol approaches. We still know relatively little about the fundamentals of the biology of this new pest species in the context of the temperate climate in the Netherlands. Therefore, we will 1) investigate the factors that control population growth, reproductive success and survival of SWD in The Netherlands. With this knowledge, we will develop an integrated pest management strategy to 2) protect fruit crops from SWD and 3) to biologically control SWD populations. Each of these interrelated and complementary goals will be addressed in a PhD project. These studies will be performed and supervised in a consortium with partners from academia (University of Groningen and Wageningen University) and the private and public sector (WUR-PPO-Fruit and Koppert). Within this programme, 3 PhD students will be hired: The position advertised here is on a "push-pull" approach that addresses attraction and repellence of the SWD.

Research environment
Within the overall programme, the 3 PhD students will be closely collaborating with each other, and with the academic and private partners in the consortium. The position advertised here will be fully based in Wageningen in the research team of Prof. Marcel Dicke (Laboratory of Entomology, Wageningen University). The other 2 PhD students will be supervised by Dr. Bart Pannebakker (Laboratory of Genetics, Wageningen University), Prof. Bregje Wertheim and Prof. Leo Beukeboom (Groningen Institute for Evolutionary Life Sciences, University of Groningen). Our teams consist of ecologists, geneticists, entomologists, molecular biologists and evolutionary biologists.

We ask
The successful candidate has an MSc degree in Biology or Plant Sciences with a specialization in Ecology, Evolution, Entomology or similar, with experience in insect ecology and behavioural studies on insects. You are a chemical / behavioural ecologist with proven experience with investigating insect behaviour and the role of infochemicals. Experience with field research will be a bonus. The candidate will be proficient in the English language and have good statistical skills. We are looking for highly motivated candidates who can work in a multidisciplinary team in a collaborative spirit. Within the Laboratory of Entomology, PhD students are encouraged to supervise MSc thesis students when such opportunities arise. The candidate will be based at the Laboratory of Entomology in Wageningen.

We offer
We offer a full-time position (38 hours), initially for 1 year after which a go/no go decision will be taken on extension with another three years. Gross salary per month € 2174,- in the first year rising to
€ 2779,- per month in the fourth year, for a fulltime appointment. The candidate will be based at the Laboratory of Entomology in Wageningen.

More information
Information on the research: Prof. dr. Marcel Dicke – marcel.dicke@wur.nl
Information on the selection procedure: Mrs. Dorien Wissink (dorien.wissink@wur.nl).

You can apply up and until 31 March 2016
For this position you can only apply on line: http://www.wageningenur.nl/career

Don't email directly to the people mentioned above but use the website to apply.
Stuur uw sollicitatie niet naar de genoemde contactpersoon, maar solliciteer via de website.

We are
At the Laboratory of Entomology the research team consists of ambitious scientists and we aim at an interdisciplinary approach from cellular to community level to unravel biological phenomena underlying the functioning of plant-insect communities, insect vectored diseases, insect neurobiology and insects as food and feed. The Laboratory of Entomology is part of the Plant Sciences Group of the Wageningen University and Research Centre.

Wageningen University and Research Centre
Delivering a substantial contribution to the quality of life. That's our focus – each and every day. Within our domain, healthy food and living environment, we search for answers to issues affecting society – such as sustainable food production, climate change and alternative energy. Of course, we don't do this alone. Every day, 6,500 people work on 'the quality of life', turning ideas into reality, on a global scale.
Could you be one of these people? We give you the space you need.
For further information about working at Wageningen UR, take a look at www.jobsat.wur.nl.