

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, the University of Pretoria and the Canadian Forest Service's Great Lakes Forestry Centre, and partially supported by funding from Sappi.

The successful candidate will conduct research with a primary focus of improving our understanding of the chemical, behavioural 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 disciplines: insect-plant interactions, insect chemical and behavioural ecology, population and invasion ecology of forest insects. Experience in 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 (IPM), ecology or closely related field; demonstrated analytical/statistical abilities and writing skills; ability to work independently and as part of a team; publication record; valid driver's license; and be able and willing to do physical field work. Preference will be given to candidates with previous research experience post a PhD.

Responsibilities: The postdoc 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) analysis 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 two years additional support, conditional on satisfactory performance (evaluated annually) and the availability of funds.

Review of applicants will commence on 5 September 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 Dr Jeremy Allison (jeremy.allison@canada.ca) and Prof. Bernard Slippers (bernard.slippers@fabi.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 three referees.