

# Postdoctoral position in Biological Control of the Macadamia Felted Coccid (*Eriococcus ironsidei*)

Macadamia  
Protection  
Programme

Dr Gerda Fourie, Prof Bernard Slippers and Prof Brett Hurley seek to hire a postdoctoral research fellow to conduct research to evaluate the potential use of *Metaphycus macadamiae* towards control of *Eriococcus ironsidei*. In 2017, *Eriococcus ironsidei* (Macadamia Felted Coccid) was reported in South Africa on macadamia for the first time (Schoeman 2018). The pest is regarded as a significant quarantine threat that can affect movement of propagative material between countries. Insecticidal oils and insect growth regulators may provide some control, however an integrated pest management programme that includes biological control, needs to be developed.

## Required Qualifications:

PhD with specialization in entomology, biological control, integrated pest management, or a related field; experience in insect rearing; demonstrated analytical/statistical abilities and writing skills; ability to work independently and as part of a team; good communication skills; publication record; South African driver's license; able and willing to do physical field work; preference will be given to candidates with previous research experience post a PhD.

## Responsibilities:

- 1) Conduct a thorough literature review on potential control and biocontrol agents for *E. ironsidei*;
- 2) Design experiments that contribute to the development of IPM tactics and strategies to reduce the impact of *E. ironsidei* in South Africa;
- 3) Contribute to the successful rearing of *E. ironsidei* and its potential biocontrol agents;
- 4) Assist in the supervision of postgraduate students;
- 5) Analysis and publication of research results; and
- 6) Present results at professional, stakeholder and extension meetings.

## Compensation:

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

## Preferred start date:

As soon as possible. Review of applicants will commence on 16 May 2022 and continue until a suitable candidate is identified.

**Duration:** 12 months, full-time initial appointment with the possibility of a second year's additional support conditional on satisfactory performance (evaluated annually) and the availability of funds.

## Application Process:

Email the following to Dr Gerda Fourie ([gerda.fourie@up.ac.za](mailto:gerda.fourie@up.ac.za)):

- (1) A cover letter that includes your research interests;
- (2) CV, including contact information for three references.