



## Position for M.Sc. candidate:

### Investigating the impact and management of the Eucalyptus snout beetle

The Forestry and Agricultural Biotechnology Institute (FABI) in collaboration with the Institute for Commercial Forestry Research (ICFR) are looking for an enthusiastic Masters student for an exciting project that will contribute knowledge towards the Integrated Pest Management of the Eucalyptus snout beetle (*Gonipterus* sp. 2), a serious invasive pest in eucalypt plantations of South Africa.

This project has a strong applied entomology focus and the aims of the project include:

- 1) Assess the loss of growth and thus economic impact caused by feeding of *Gonipterus* sp. 2, using a 6-year data set on *Gonipterus* abundance and tree growth.
- 2) Investigate the seasonal development and abundance of *Gonipterus* sp. 2 in established field trials, relate these variables to damage and develop a model to predict infestations and inform management decisions.
- 3) Investigate recovery of the egg parasitoid, *Anaphes nitens*, after the use of insecticides (to control *Gonipterus* sp. 2), and thus assess the interaction between chemical and biological management approaches for this pest.

**Required qualifications:** Honours or equivalent degree, in Entomology, Plant Science, Ecology, or a related field. Demonstrated analytical / statistical abilities and writing skills.

In addition, we welcome candidates who enjoy fieldwork, have a strong academic background, good communication skills, and an ability to work independently.

**Where:** The successful candidate will be based at the Institute for Commercial Forestry Research (ICFR) in Pietermaritzburg, which will be the region of the field work. The candidate will also spend time at the Forestry and Agricultural Biotechnology Institute (FABI, [www.fabinet.up.ac.za](http://www.fabinet.up.ac.za)) at the University of Pretoria, where s/he will be registered in the Department of Zoology and Entomology.

**Compensation:** A full scholarship is offered for a two-year period.

**Application Process:** Email the following documents to Prof. Brett Hurley ([brett.hurley@fabi.up.ac.za](mailto:brett.hurley@fabi.up.ac.za)) and Dr Benice Sivparsad ([benice.Sivparsad@icfr.ukzn.ac.za](mailto:benice.Sivparsad@icfr.ukzn.ac.za)) (1) A cover letter that includes your research interests (2) CV, including your academic transcripts (tertiary only) and contact information for three references.

*Please note that only short-listed candidates will be contacted.*

The deadline for application is **31 August, 2021**. The applicant will be expected to start in January 2022.