



UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA
YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA



Postdoctoral position in Biological Control and Monitoring of the Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer

We seek to hire a postdoctoral research fellow to conduct mission oriented research to develop and improve integrated pest management tactics and strategies for the Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer (PSHB), *Euwallacea fornicatus*, and its *Fusarium* fungal symbiont in South Africa (www.fabinet.up.ac.za/pshb). Emphasis will be on the potential biological control of this insect. This position is part of a larger project on the PSHB invasion in South Africa, funded by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment (DFFE).

The successful candidate will conduct research with a primary focus on the exploration and evaluation of biological control agents against the PSHB. The research focus will include identification of potential biological control agents from the native range of PSHB and investigating the biology of those agents. Research (and technical) outputs could also possibly include monitoring of PSHB within an urban environment (Pretoria). The successful candidate will also be involved in communication and engagement with the public and other affected parties in South Africa.

Required qualifications: Ph.D in Entomology or a related field. The ideal candidate will have a background in one or more of the following: entomology, biological control, insect taxonomy, insect-plant interactions. Experience in insect rearing will be a substantial advantage, as will demonstrated analytical abilities and writing skills. The project will combine field work and laboratory experiments. The ideal candidate must be able to work independently and as part of a large team. Drivers licence is essential.

Where: The successful candidate will be based at the Forestry and Agricultural Biotechnology Institute (FABI, www.fabinet.up.ac.za), University of Pretoria, Pretoria, South Africa, and will be registered in the Department of Zoology and Entomology.

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

Duration: 12 months, full-time appointment

Application Process: Email the following documents to Prof. Brett Hurley (brett.hurley@fabi.up.ac.za): (1) A cover letter that includes your research interests (2) CV, including contact information for three references; (3) copy of drivers licence.

The deadline for application is **10 November, 2023**. The applicant will be expected to start in January or February 2024.