Join us at iomE as

Student Assistants

Role of niche choice in rapid host adaptation of Colorado potato beetle (5h/week)

Institute
The Institute of Organismic and Molecular Evolution (iomE) focuses on the analysis of the processes of evolutionary change. The research focus includes evolutionary changes in genes and proteins, the evolution of social behaviour, symbiotic and parasitic associations, life course strategies and human populations, and the process of speciation. For a comprehensive understanding of evolutionary processes, all levels of organismic complexity are examined, from the individual gene to organisms, populations and species in nature.

Research animals
The Colorado Potato Beetle (CPB) (*Leptinotarsa decemlineata*) is a global pest that can cause complete defoliation of potato plants (*Solanum tuberosum*). Since expanding its hosts to potatoes about 200 years ago in its native range (Mexico), the beetle has rapidly spread to North America and Europe and has now reached Asia. CPB is currently resistant to over 54 insecticides, including the neonicotinoids commonly used in agriculture.

Project
Individuals select different microenvironments (niche choices) that increase their fitness. Evolutionary theories predict that individual niche choice can facilitate rapid adaptation in a heterogeneous environment; however, with limited direct empirical evidence. We here will investigate how niche choice affects the evolutionary process of insecticide resistance in CPB.

Start date: February 27th or sooner
Duration: 1 to 2 years
Working hours: 5 hours a week
Application deadline: 20.02.2023

Tasks and responsibilities
- Work as part of a team in a dynamic environment
- Grow potato plants in the climate chambers
- Rear juvenile and adult beetles in the climate chambers
- Help with ongoing experiments if needed

Minimum requirements
- Ongoing or completed studies in biology or related fields (B.Sc. or M.Sc.)
- Matriculated student

- Strong communication skills and team spirit
- Flexible working hours (sometimes also weekends)
- Familiarity with MS Office software

Desired requirements

- Basic knowledge of insect development and behaviour
- Know-how in plant growing

Why join us

We offer a stimulating, diverse and international research environment with a pleasant working atmosphere and informal culture.

Our offer includes

- A diverse, friendly and international research environment
- Training opportunities
- Employee events
- Pay according to the remuneration table for research assistants/students

Interested?

To apply, please, send a single PDF file containing your short motivation letter, CV, and certificates (if applicable), quoting Ref. No. CPBH#4 to Nijat Narimanov (nnariman@uni-mainz.de). iomE is an equal opportunity employer.

Declaration of Consent and Data Protection

By sending us your application, you consent to us saving your personal data to carry out the selection process.

Group website

https://plant-x.uni-mainz.de/