

## **PhD scholarship: Exploring fungal entomopathogen diversity for improved biological control**

The Department of Plant and Environmental Science at the University of Copenhagen is offering a PhD scholarship commencing 1 May 2013 or soon thereafter. The application deadline is 15 February 2013.

### **Project description**

The aim of the PhD project is to investigate the role of fungal entomopathogen diversity on host-pathogen interactions. The focus will be on the genera *Beauveria* and/or *Metarhizium*. The project will involve one or both of the following elements: 1) the role of within-host diversity through infections by multiple genotypes, and 2) the ecological role of environmental fungal diversity on host-pathogen interactions. Objectives of the project are:

- To clarify the impact of fungal entomopathogen diversity and relatedness on virulence during co-infections.
- To investigate if fungal entomopathogen strains/genotypes exhibit niche complementarity in the host environment.

The PhD project will be an integral part of our activities in the newly initiated research project IMBICONT (IMproved BIological CONTrol for integrated pest management in fruits and berries, <http://esalq.mapsd.com.br/imbicont/homeImbicont>) and the Centre for Social Evolution, Theme Four: Disease and Immunity (<http://socialevolution.ku.dk/>).

Additional information can be obtained by contacting the supervisor team.

### **Principal supervisor**

Nicolai V. Meyling, Associate Professor, PhD

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### **Co-supervisor**

Annette Bruun Jensen, Associate Professor, PhD

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### **Job description**

Your key tasks as a PhD fellow:

- Manage and carry through your research project.
- Take PhD courses.
- Write manuscripts for scientific articles as part of your PhD thesis.
- Participate in international congresses and present your research.
- Stay at a research institution abroad for a few months.
- Contribute to teaching and other activities within the department.

### **Key criteria for the assessment of candidates**

- A relevant MSc degree in Ecology, Entomology, Mycology or similar.
- Documented skills relating to designing and conducting laboratory experiments.
- Quality of brief research proposal.
- The grade point average achieved.
- Professional qualifications relevant to the PhD programme.
- Previous publications.
- Relevant work experience.

Strong English skills, both in writing and speaking, are expected. The members of the research group are from several different countries and the daily language is English. Good interpersonal skills are advantageous.

### **Formal requirements**

The position is available for a 3-year period.

The successful applicant of the PhD scholarship must pass an enrolment in the Graduate School before the Faculty can finish the letter of employment. Graduate School of the Faculty of Science strives to give our students the best international career prospects within our main research areas.

### **Terms of employment**

The position will be filled according to the agreement between the Danish Ministry of Finance and the Danish Confederation of Professional Associations. The post is covered by the Protocol on Job Structure.

### **Application Procedure**

Apply electronically at the particular job advertisement at the website of University of Copenhagen: [http://www.ku.dk/english/available\\_positions/vip/](http://www.ku.dk/english/available_positions/vip/)

Applications – in English – must include:

- Cover Letter, stating your motivation and background for applying for the PhD project.
- CV.
- Diploma and transcripts of records and grades obtained in both BSc and MSc programmes.
- A brief (1-2 page) research proposal related to the project objectives.
- Peer reviewed publications or manuscripts submitted for review.
- Other information for consideration.
- Personal recommendations.

The applicant will be assessed according to the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation Executive Order no 284 of 25 April 2008.

The application must be received no later than 15 February 2013. Applications received later than this date will not be considered.