PhD Assistantship

Classical Biological Control of Invasive Insects

University of Florida

Description: The Quinn lab, located at the Indian River Research and Education Center in Fort Pierce, FL (https://irrec.ifas.ufl.edu/about-us/), is seeking exceptional applicants for a PhD Assistantship in the department of Entomology and Nematology available as early as January 2023 (start date is flexible). The project would concern the classical biological control of hibiscus mealybug (Nipaecoccus viridis) in Florida. The scope of the project will include opportunities for laboratory work in a quarantine environment and field work. There will be flexibility in developing specific objectives based on interests of the candidate and needs of the project, but will generally focus on host specificity, development, behavior, trophic interactions, and sampling of biological control agents of N. viridis.

Qualifications:

- M.S. in Entomology, Ecology, or related field
- Independent research experience
- Applicants must have a valid U.S. driver’s license or obtain a license within 60 days of starting employment
- Meet all admission requirements (see below)

Admission Requirements and Procedures: https://entnemdept.ufl.edu/academic-programs/graduate-studies/

Background information: The Indian River Research and Education Center is a unit of the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) at the University of Florida, and is located on a 700-acre site west of Fort Pierce, St. Lucie County. Fort Pierce is located on the east coast of Florida, 50 miles north of West Palm Beach. The internationally recognized research center is located in a major agricultural region in which nurseries, citrus, beef cattle, and vegetables are major industries. Presently, there are approximately 240,000 acres of citrus produced in the six-county Indian River region. The IRREC is an interdisciplinary unit of the Florida Agricultural Experiment Station, the Florida Extension Service, and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, all of which are administered by IFAS to serve the land-grant mission.

Applicants of underrepresented groups in science, including women, LGBTQIA, people of color and others are strongly encouraged to apply

Please contact Dr. Nicole Quinn (nicole.quinn@ufl.edu) for more information