



## Available: Two PhD Research Assistantships University of Kentucky Departments of Entomology, Biology

Many arthropods are infected with bacterial endosymbionts that confer a variety of phenotypic effects on their hosts. We are seeking two graduate assistants to conduct research on symbiont interactions in a species of Linyphiid spider, *Mermessus fradeorum*. This spider is infected by up to 5 different strains of inherited symbiont, which result in different reproductive anomalies for the host depending on which combination of symbionts are present. The first graduate position will be based out of the Entomology Department (<https://entomology.ca.uky.edu/>) under supervision of [Dr. Jen White](#) and will focus on empirically testing host reproductive phenotype and population dynamics. The second graduate position will be based out of the Biology Department (<https://bio.as.uky.edu/>) under supervision of [Dr. Jeremy Van Cleve](#), and will focus on modeling feedbacks between within-host and among-host dynamics.

### Selection criteria:

**Required:** – BS in Biology, Entomology, Mathematics or a related field

- One or more years of lab experience
- Strong organizational and computer skills

**Preferred:** – MS in Biology, Entomology, Mathematics or related field

- Demonstrated communications skills
- Experience with molecular techniques including (at a minimum) DNA extraction, PCR, and gel electrophoresis
- Previous experience working with spiders or bacterial endosymbionts –or–  
Previous experience/training in mathematical modeling or scientific computing

**The location:** The University of Kentucky is located in Lexington, Kentucky, a mid-sized city of ~300,000 people, within a 1.5 hr drive from both Cincinnati, OH and Louisville, KY. Visit the [University of Kentucky Website](#) for more information about UK. We are less than an hour from great hiking, camping, and climbing in the [Red River Gorge](#) and [Daniel Boone Nat. Forest](#).

**The process:** For more information, please send an email to Dr. Jen White at [jenwhite.uk@gmail.com](mailto:jenwhite.uk@gmail.com), indicating which position(s) are of interest to you. For serious inquiries, please include a copy of your CV or resume, unofficial college transcripts, and contact information for at least three references. We will conduct phone or Skype interviews with short-list applicants before encouraging top candidates to submit an application to the University of Kentucky graduate school (<https://gradschool.uky.edu/>)

*The University of Kentucky is an equal opportunity institution and encourages applications from minorities and women.*