THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL, AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Department of Entomology

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Are you interested in plant-insect interactions in specialty crop vegetable systems?
Are you passionate about applied research?

I am seeking a motivated graduate student with strong communication skills to develop research-based best management practices for the pepper weevil in Ohio. Ohio ranks 5th in the nation in green pepper production and in recent years, this valuable specialty crop has been threatened by infestations of the pepper weevil. This research will address the role of ecological and/or human-mediated factors that have allowed this southern insect to become a serious pest in Ohio. Currently, the main strategy to manage this small snout beetle is the intensive use of insecticides, which have limited success and pose risks to pollinators and natural enemies in these agroecosystems. Therefore, efforts to improve early detection of infestations and strong crop sanitation have the potential to reduce crop damage and protect beneficial insects in these agroecosystems.

This project will entail (1) examining the seasonal biology of the pepper weevil in Ohio, (2) working closely with partnering growers to identify crop practices that improve pepper weevil management, and (3) establishing a pepper weevil monitoring network that will alert producers of its presence in key pepper-producing counties in Ohio. In addition to these research components, this student will help develop extension factsheets and videos, with the goals of increasing awareness of this pest and providing growers with research-based knowledge to help reduce its impact in Ohio.

The successful candidate will conduct field work at OSU-affiliated vegetable research farms and lab work with Dr. Long. Students with hands-on research experience in field research and insect sampling are strongly encouraged to apply.

Preferred start date: Spring 2019, but Fall 2019 may also be possible.

Minimum requirements to apply: An undergraduate degree in Biology, Entomology, or a related field, previous research experience, a 3.6 or higher undergraduate GPA, and a 75th percentile or higher average on the verbal and quantitative portions of the GRE.

To learn more about this project, please email a brief statement of your interests along with a CV or resume to:

Dr. Elizabeth Long
E-mail: long.1541@osu.edu
Long Insect Ecology Lab (http://u.osu.edu/longlab)