PhD student in Insect Molecular Biology

at the Department of Biochemistry, Molecular Biology, Entomology & Plant Pathology, Mississippi State University

Description: The Ahn Lab at Mississippi State University, USA, seeks a highly motivated individual interested in insect molecular biology. As part of the Department of Biochemistry, Molecular Biology, Entomology & Plant Pathology, we primarily investigate plant-insect interactions from a molecular perspective, addressing questions such as how do herbivorous insects adapt to host plants and their environment at a molecular level, and how have the detoxification enzymes evolved in polyphagous crop pests. We are also interested in the neuropeptide signaling system in insects and other invertebrates. The PhD project will implement a variety of tools, such as genomics, transcriptomics, RNAi and genome editing, as well as molecular cloning, cell culture and biochemical analyses. The successful candidate will have the opportunity to design his/her own research topic under the supervisor's guidance.

Qualifications: Applicants should have a Master´s degree or equivalent in Entomology, Biology, Biochemistry or related disciplines. Experience in insect rearing, basic molecular cloning and cell culture would be a plus, but not be required. The successful candidate should be curious about insect biology in general, excited about learning molecular biology techniques to investigate insects, and excellent in written and verbal communication skills.

Compensation: The graduate assistantship will provide a competitive stipend and cover full-tuition and health insurance.

Application: Interested applicants should email the following documents to Dr. Seung-Joon Ahn at seungjoon.ahn@msstate.edu: 1) a cover letter expressing your research interest (max 2 pages), 2) a CV including publication list as well as GPA, GRE, and TOEFL (for foreign applicants only) scores, 3) copies of unofficial transcripts, and 4) names and contact information for three references. Applications will be reviewed immediately and continue until the position is filled. The anticipated start date for the position is August 2020.