Sveriges lantbruksuniversitet
Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences

PhD position – In analysis of odour-mediated behaviours of mosquitoes

The Department of Plant Protection is an interdisciplinary constellation with good opportunities for strong research collaboration within and outside the departmental area. World-leading research conducted in chemical ecology/sensory biology, as well as successful research in resistance biology and integrated plant protection, has resulted in a dynamic working environment and a strong international reputation in both fundamental and applied research.

At the Department, the chemical ecology of disease vectors group intensively investigates vector mosquitoes. Female mosquitoes are major vectors of human disease and the most dangerous are those that preferentially bite humans. Host selection and discrimination by mosquitoes are mainly odour mediated. Understanding how individual salient host volatiles and their cognate receptors contribute to this behaviour is challenging, controversial and of significant practical importance for controlling these rapidly evolving vectors.

Duties:

The research describes the contribution of individual odorant receptors, tuned to behaviorally active salient human and animal odorants, to the host seeking behavior of *Anopheles* malaria mosquitoes and the dengue mosquito, *Aedes aegypti*. The PhD student will analyse the behavioural response of wild-type mosquitoes, as well as of mutant mosquitoes, to host odours to identify how salient odorants and their cognate odorant receptors contribute to sequential behavioural decisions.

Qualifications:

The successful candidate will hold a MSc in a biology-related field. Experience with behavioural analysis of insects is a requirement. In addition, experience with high-resolution (2D or 3D) analysis of flight behaviour and mosquito research is a significant asset. S/he should be fluent in spoken and written English (for a details click here), and have excellent communication skills. The candidate should enjoy working in a group environment, as well as demonstrate a solid ability to work independently to advance our research.

Place of work:	Alnarp, Sweden
Employment:	PhD position (4 years)
Project support:	Fully funded
Extent:	100%, Full time
Starting date:	1 Sept 2018

Please **submit your application**, marked with reference number SLU ua 2017.2.5.1-4663, to registrator@slu.se no later than 1 March 2018.

Specific documents to be attached include: (1) PhD application form (2) CV, (3) a description of research experience, (4) a statement of scientific interests, (5) contact information of two references, as well as (6) proof of English proficiency.

Read more about PhD education at SLU.

SLU is an equal opportunity employer.