

Energetics of insect-plant interactions – M.S. position

Department of Biology – University of Central Arkansas

Description:

We are seeking applications for a graduate student position at the University of Central Arkansas to develop projects on the energetic costs of herbivore behaviors that function to circumvent plant defenses. A new Sable gas exchange instrument will be used to measure the energetic costs of girdling or trenching by caterpillars. Whereas plant defenses have been analyzed in considerable detail in many systems, the costs and benefits of herbivore offense are poorly known. The graduate student will be co-advised by Drs. David Dussourd (<https://uca.edu/biology/facultystaff/david-dussourd-ph-d/>) and Matt Gifford (<https://uca.edu/biology/facultystaff/matthew-gifford-ph-d/>). Receipt of the position is contingent upon acceptance into the Biology graduate program with successful progress toward the MS degree required for continuation. The program website can be found at the following link: <http://uca.edu/biology/master-of-science-in-biology/>

Timeline and compensation:

The position will begin in the Fall semester 2017. Support would come from a Teaching Assistantship during the academic year, which includes a full tuition waiver.

Qualifications:

Earned 4-year degree from an accredited college or university (biology, ecology, evolution, or related field preferred). Ability to work independently with good communication skills both in writing and speaking desired. Experience working with insects and/or plants preferred, but not required.

Qualified applicants should email Dr. David Dussourd (dussourd@uca.edu) and include a statement of interests, a CV that details academic background and standardized testing scores, and contact information for two references.

Application deadline is March 1, so please submit applications prior to this date for full consideration.