

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT



Title: University of Maryland Faculty Research Assistant

Location: College Park, MD

Department: CMNS, Entomology

Supervisor: Dr. Kelly Hamby

Salary: \$36,000-\$46,000 plus University benefits

(<http://uhr.umd.edu/benefits/>)

Category Type: Non-tenured, continuing contract (12 mo.)

Duration: 12 to 24 months contingent upon performance

Position Description. The incumbent will provide laboratory and field research support to the Hamby research program in the Department of Entomology. The [Hamby lab](#) works to improve agricultural sustainability and productivity using the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) paradigm. IPM is a science-based decision-making process that uses multifaceted management approaches to increase profitability while protecting human health and the environment. This work includes working to optimize use of agrochemicals to effectively manage insect pests while reducing the impact on non-target beneficials and working with producers to help fill knowledge gaps. The successful applicant will be responsible for maintaining insect colonies required for the research program, culturing and identifying microorganisms, performing routine molecular and/or genetics procedures, and assisting with data collection for both field and laboratory assays. In addition, the incumbent will be responsible for general laboratory maintenance and supervision of undergraduate student laboratory technicians.

Primary Responsibilities. These include, but are not limited to, the following:

- 1.) Supervision undergraduate technicians and participation in the maintenance of *Helicoverpa* moths, *Coleomegilla maculata* and *Harmonia axyridis* lady beetles, *Drosophila suzukii* flies, *Derocerus reticulatum* and *Derocerus laeve* slugs, and *Rhopalosiphum padi* aphid colonies.
- 2.) Isolating genomic DNA from insect specimens, as well as conducting routine PCRs, gel electrophoresis, and Sanger sequencing preparations under the direction of the supervisor.
- 3.) Collection of insect specimens from field trials/experiments, as well as identification using standard stereomicroscopy.
- 4.) Data aggregation and spreadsheet/database entry according to standard laboratory protocols.
- 5.) Ordering laboratory supplies, conducting chemical inventories, preparing for laboratory safety inspections, and documenting standard operating procedures under the direction of the supervisor.

Note: Additional responsibilities may vary as research emphasis changes. Opportunities also exist for independent research and participation in scientific writing contingent upon performance and level of interest.

Minimum Requirements. A Bachelor's degree in a life sciences field with a minimum of 1 year employment experience in any field. A current Maryland driver's license with a clean driving record is requirement for this position. The incumbent must also be capable of driving a large work vehicle, working outdoors in all seasons, and be physically able to lift at least 50 lbs. An ability to work independently must be confirmed by references.

Preferred Qualifications. Preference will be given to applicants with: 1) Previous experience/employment in an academic laboratory environment, 2) insect rearing experience, 3) insect identification experience, 4) familiarity with basic molecular tools and techniques (DNA isolation, PCR, gel electrophoresis), and 5) previous experience in a supervisory/mentoring role.

Closing Date. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis and the position will remain open until filled.

Applications. Interested applicants should send a cover letter, CV/resume, and a list of 3 references to Kelly Hamby (kahamby@umd.edu).

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