Graduate research assistantship position in urban landscape entomology

The Wilson lab in the Department of Entomology at the University of Kentucky is recruiting a graduate student for either an M.S. or PhD in Entomology to start in Spring or Fall 2024. We study natural enemy conservation and sustainable pest management in urban landscapes. We study urban landscapes through a holistic perspective to understand how arthropod communities are connected across vegetation strata (trees, shrubs, herbaceous plants, and grasses) to support biological control services. Student projects may cover, but are not limited to, topics such as: measuring the trade-offs associated with tolerating scale insects in urban trees, how shade from trees conserves arthropods, importance of trees for conservation biological control in adjacent vegetation, and the effect of pesticide applications on arthropod communities in nearby vegetation strata. Students will be encouraged to develop their own research topics under the general themes of the lab. Ideal applicants will possess a bachelor’s degree and have a background in entomology, ecology, environmental sciences, biology, or a related field. A master’s degree is preferred for applicants interested in a PhD. Prior experience with field-based data collection and/or other aspects of the research process are preferred. Successful applicants will start between January and August 2024. Students will receive an assistantship which fully covers tuition and provides a competitive stipend and health insurance. Prospective applicants are encouraged to contact Dr. Caleb Wilson with questions: c.wilson@uky.edu

The University of Kentucky is located in Lexington, Kentucky which contains a vibrant downtown along with many excellent options for dining, shopping, and outdoor recreation. The department of Entomology is composed of 20 faculty with expertise in a diverse array of disciplines. The department is consistently ranked as one of the most productive in the country and our students have moved on to successful careers in academia, industry, and government.

Additional information can be found at the Wilson lab website: https://caleb-j-wilson.com/, and the University of Kentucky Department of Entomology graduate program: https://entomology.ca.uky.edu/academics/graduate. Applicants are encouraged to read recent publications from the lab: https://caleb-j-wilson.com/publications/

To apply, please email the following documents to Dr. Caleb Wilson at c.wilson@uky.edu with “Grad student application: First name, Last name” in the subject line:

1. A cover letter describing research experience, interests, and career goals
2. CV
3. Name and contact information for 3 professional references.

Review of applications will begin on September 20th, 2023, and will continue until a suitable candidate is found. Selected candidates will be required to apply to, and be accepted by, the Entomology graduate program University of Kentucky prior to starting the position. Applicants from underrepresented groups are encouraged to apply.