Ph-D position in bee health / pollinator conservation / ecotoxicology (m/f)

Within Laboratory of Zoology

The project

Following the Call: H2020-SFS-2016-2017 (Sustainable Food Security - Resilient and resource-efficient value chains), our project entitled "PoshBee" has been selected and awarded a 48-month budget to recruit a Ph-D candidate at University of Mons. The scientific context of the project is about a very actual mediatic and scientific question: the impact of pesticide on wild bees, not only honey bees but also wild bees. Bees pollinate our crops and wildflowers, and thus are essential for human well-being. Worldwide, bees face many threats and are often in decline as a result. One potential driver of reduced bee health is agrochemicals. While laboratory and semi-field studies suggest that such chemicals negatively impact bee health, their importance and relevance in the real world remains unclear. PoshBee is a consortium of academics, governmental organisations, industry, and NGOs that will address the issue of agrochemicals to ensure the sustainable health of bees and their pollination services in Europe. PoshBee will provide the first comprehensive pan-European assessment of the exposure hazard of chemicals, their mixtures, and co-occurrence with pathogens and nutritional stress for bees. Integrated studies across the lab-to-field axis will determine the effect of chemicals, their mixtures, and interactions with pathogens and nutrition on bee health. We will combine the skills of commercial bumble bee and solitary bee producers, ecotoxicological industry, and academics to develop new model species and innovative protocols for testing chemicals in bees. Using proteomics, we will produce new molecular markers for assessing bee health and enabling long-term monitoring schemes". You will be a key player within the Work Packages (WP) dedicated to (i) the development of new model of wild bees and (ii) the interaction between bee diet and pesticide.

Your responsabilities

You will be in charge of the following tasks: (i) breeding of wild bees; (ii) developing experiment to test the impact of various pollen diet and pesticides; (iii) evaluate synergy between the different factors.

Your profile

- We are looking for a solid stature able to communicate pro-actively with the team, who shows initiative when appropriate and takes responsibility for the decisions. You typically have a "never give up" mentality combined with the ability to work independently but always keeping in mind a team spirit. You are excellent communicator towards different stakeholders (with different cultural backgrounds).
- Master degree or equivalent
- Early stage researcher with less than 4 years FTE research experience.

- Research experience in (i) Bee ecology; (ii) Eco-toxicology; (iii) Abilities for research work with a real team spirit and qualities to integrate rapidly the team; (iv) Real and proved skills in English language, to communicate fluently with the partners of the consortium and write scientific manuscripts for Peer Scientific Journals
- We are looking for candidates with experience in: (i) Bee ecology; (ii) Eco-toxicology; (iii) Abilities

Our offer

- You will be supervised by Prof. Denis Michez (https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Denis_Michez; https://scholar.google.be/citations?user=iUgAM2YAAAAJ&hl=fr)
- Research developed in the laboratory of Zoology (2 PI, one permanent technician, 14 PhD students, 2 postdocs), a reference laboratory in bee research.
- Salary is fixed by the Contract Agreement signed within the frame of the EU Project “PoshBee”. This full-time position for 48 months needs to be filled as soon as possible.
- Deadline of application: 20/12/2018
- Starting date: 01/01/2019

Interested? Send us your curriculum vitae and your cover letter to the email address candidatures@umons.ac.be specifying the title of the post in object before 20/12/2018.

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