Forest Entomology and Ecology of Emerald Ash Borer

Research Assistant – Part time

Emerald ash borer (EAB) is an invasive wood boring beetles that has established in 33 states in the United States. Between 2009-2019 this pest has caused an estimated $25 billion in damage in urban forests alone. This project deals with the ecological impact of EAB, the use of biological control, and community analysis of ash trees in Maryland forests.

The Gruner lab is looking for a dynamic part-time research assistant to join our team for the Fall of 2021. Schedule will vary between 8-12 hours per week. Hourly rates will vary between $10.10 to $15 an hour based upon experience.

Duties include:

- Assisting with field and lab experiments (monitoring for biocontrol/sorting collected samples)
- Maintaining insect colonies and greenhouse stock
- Recording and organizing experimental data
- Assisting in organization and cataloging of insect specimens
- Communicating with lab members and stakeholders on a semi-weekly basis

Requirements:

- Commit to 1 full day of field work during the semester
- Ability to work in adverse field conditions during the winter
- Valid Maryland driver’s license with a clean record
- Reliable means of transportation to campus
- Lift at least 30lbs
- Familiar with Excel, knowledge of R is a plus
- Insect and plant identification skills are a plus
- Comply with university and departmental COVID-19 guidelines

Field experiments include harvesting ash logs for insect rearing as well as sampling trees for biological control agents via bark removal and sticky cards. Lab projects include identification and sorting of insects reared from ash logs and sorting of insects collected via yellow sticky cards.

This position can help prepare you for entering graduate school or a career in a related field. If you are interested in ecology, entomology, plant biology, or a similar field please inquire below.

To apply please an email with a statement of interest and a CV to Stokes Aker at saker@umd.edu. Position will remain open until filled.

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