

Assistant/Associate Professor,
Entomology/Insect Vector Biology

Texas A&M AgriLife Research, Weslaco is seeking a highly motivated scientist specializing in insect vector biology. The position involves the development of a research program leading to new discoveries of the interactions of arthropods with the pathogens they transmit, and applications to improve prevention and management of plant pathogens. The successful candidate will develop a strong basic and applied research program investigating the molecular, physiological, and/or behavioral basis of arthropod – transmitted plant pathogens. The successful candidate will have a strong background in elucidating the interactions between vectors and plant pathogens leading to a reduction in disease incidence. Preference will be given to candidates who have experience working with citrus greening (HLB), potato zebra chip, as well as experience working on other insect transmitted diseases of tomatoes, onions and other crops. Experience in the biology/management of Mexican Fruit Fly in citrus is highly desirable. Areas of research emphasis may include the exploration of pathways that are involved with pathogen transmission and acquisition, the development of new approaches to control diseases that result from arthropod-vectored pathogens, and the exploration with breeders, plant pathologists and physiologists the development of new genetic or management strategies to control the disease. This position complements the centers' strengths in fastidious plant pathogens and diseases, and interfaces with the existing genomic, plant breeding, plant physiology and cropping systems programs within Texas A&M AgriLife Research, the Departments of Entomology, Plant Pathology and Microbiology at Texas A&M University, Texas A&M Kingsville, the Citrus Center and the USDA Center for Invasive Species Research.

Requirements: Applicants must hold a Ph.D. or equivalent degree in Entomology or an equivalent discipline. The successful candidate must have strong training and experience with modern approaches to the study of aspects of pathogen-vector interactions and vector biology, including plant/insect anatomy/physiology, molecular biology, bioassay techniques for detecting and identifying plant pathogens, rearing and maintenance of insect colonies. Strong written and oral communication skills, including a demonstrated ability to publish in high-quality peer-reviewed journals is required.

Essential characteristics of a successful candidate for this position is the ability to serve as a leader with vision toward global leadership for the vector biology program at Texas A&M AgriLife-Research and Extension Center at Weslaco and to effectively work with other AgriLife scientists in interdisciplinary teams to accomplish project goals. Interested candidates should submit a cover letter, curriculum vitae, and a statement of research interest/experiences. In addition, a statement of what motivates the individual to be a part of this program and the names of three references should be submitted with the application. Submit application material online to https://tamus.wd1.myworkdayjobs.com/en-US/AgriLife_Research_External/job/Weslaco-AL-RSCH/Assistant-Associate-Professor--Entomology-Insect-Vector-Biology_R-028729. Only applications submitted online will be considered. For additional information contact Dr. Juan Landivar at jalandivar@ag.tamu.edu.

Texas A&M AgriLife Research is an Equal Opportunity / Affirmative Action / Veterans / Disability Employer committed to diversity.