

Postdoctoral Research Associate position investigating potential nontarget impacts of introduced emerald ash borer parasitoids.

The laboratory of Dr. Marianna Szucs at Michigan State University, Department of Entomology, invites applications for a Research Associate (postdoctoral) position to investigate potential nontarget impacts of emerald ash borer (EAB) parasitoids and the persistence of the EAB egg parasitoid, *Oobius agrili*, in different climates. Much of this project will be conducted in cooperation with USDA Forest Service entomologists, Drs. Toby Petrice and Therese Poland, based in East Lansing, Michigan.

One objective of this project is to determine if introduced EAB parasitoids attack North American *Agrilus* in the field and the impact they may have on native *Agrilus* and their natural enemies. The research will involve both field and laboratory components. The postdoctoral researcher will work in existing research sites and establish new sites in Michigan. Multiple native *Agrilus* species will be monitored for potential nontarget impact in the field by girdling their host trees to promote oviposition and colonization. Adult *Agrilus* and parasitoid seasonal activity will be monitored using traps. Nontarget impacts will be determined by dissecting trees and conducting laboratory assays. Parasitoids and *Agrilus* will be identified using morphological and or molecular techniques.

The second objective is to evaluate *Oobius agrili* persistence and impacts at multiple sites located across a north to south gradient. Data will be collected using yellow pan traps and bark sampling for eggs. *Oobius* specimens will be identified using morphological and molecular techniques.

The initial appointment is for one year with potential for renewal based on availability of funding.

Minimum Requirements

Ph.D. in entomology, ecology, or related field and a successful publication record.

Desired Qualifications

- Working with insect host-parasitoid systems
- Experience with morphological and/or molecular taxonomy
- Experience conducting research in forest entomology
- Strong organizational skills
- Interest in mentoring undergraduate researchers

Experience working with hymenopteran parasitoids is preferred, but applicants with a strong evolutionary background who are willing to learn identification and handling of parasitoids will be considered as well.

If you have questions about this position please contact Marianna Szucs (szucsmar@msu.edu) or Toby Petrice (toby.petrice@usda.gov).

Interested applicants may apply at the following link:

<https://careers.msu.edu/jobs/research-associate-fixed-term-east-lansing-michigan-united-states-ba4e6c7c-eb94-4dbd-b39d-ba045f9f3817>