

Ph.D. Graduate Position in Termite Social Behavior

Description: The Laboratory of Urban Entomology at Louisiana State University is recruiting a Ph.D. student to study social behavior in termites. The student will be encouraged to develop his/her own research program to address questions in social communications and the regulation of reproduction, caste differentiation, or behavior such as foraging and colony defense. Students have the opportunity to receive integrative training in chemical ecology, physiology, and molecular biology, and to participate in outreach and extension activities. A bachelor's degree in biology, entomology, or related field is required. A Master's degree or previous research experience is highly desirable.

Lab: The new Laboratory of Urban Entomology headed by Dr. Qian "Karen" Sun will start in March 2018. The lab is broadly interested in the pheromonal and molecular mechanisms underlying behavior and physiology of insects associated with the urban environment, particularly termites. We seek to understand their ecology and evolution combining perspectives from chemical ecology, neurobiology and genetics, and we integrate basic and applied research for pest control. Research areas include 1) pheromones and other semiochemicals that regulate behavior and caste differentiation, 2) the olfactory mechanisms of pheromone perception, and 3) genetics and genomics of insect sociality.

Department: The Department of Entomology at LSU offers excellent graduate training through courses, seminar and research in diverse areas. The department is co-located with the Department of Biological Sciences in the Life Sciences Building, and students also have opportunities to utilize resources within other collaborating departments and organizations. LSU campus is located in the capital city of Louisiana, Baton Rouge. Louisiana is an ideal location to study many insect species due to the unique climate and the diversity of geographic landscapes.

Start Date and Compensations: The successful applicant is expected to start in the summer or fall of 2018. The position is fully funded with a competitive stipend, tuition waiver, and health insurance.

Application Procedures: Interested applicants are encouraged to contact Qian "Karen" Sun at qsun@rockefeller.edu by March 15, 2018. Please include 1) a CV (including GPA and GRE scores), 2) a statement of research experience, interests, and career goals, and 3) names and contact information for three references. The successful applicant will be required to submit the application to LSU graduate school. Please visit LSU Entomology website for more information (<http://entomology.lsu.edu/prospective.html>).