



CAES

The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station

Putting Science to Work for Society since 1875

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POSTDOCTORAL SCIENTIST: Chemoreception in Spotted Wing *Drosophila*

Department of Entomology

With anticipated approval, the Department of Entomology at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (New Haven Campus) is seeking applicants for a Postdoctoral Research Scientist position to conduct research on the chemical ecology of Spotted Wing *Drosophila* (*Drosophila suzukii*, SWD). The anticipated start date is as soon as possible, and the position is for 12 months with a salary of \$55,592/yr, including competitive medical and dental benefits.

Scope: The federally funded research project aims to study how SWD acquired different egg-laying behavior from closely related species. The successful candidate will assist in generating CRISPR mutants for genes of interest and study the effect of these mutations on the behavioral and physiological responses of SWD to its preferred fruit hosts. This investigation seeks to reveal how the novel egg-laying behavior in *D. suzukii* has reshaped its chemosensory systems. Ultimately, this research may yield valuable insights into the mechanisms of chemosensory adaptations, with potential implications for pest control.

Required Qualifications: Candidates must hold a Ph.D. in entomology or a related field. Essential qualifications include strong training in molecular biology, knowledge of gene editing, basic bioinformatic skills, experience in maintaining insects, excellent communication (both verbal and written), as well as organizational skills. A proven track record of research productivity is required.

Additional Qualifications: Willingness and the ability to acquire new skills and techniques are essential, as is the capacity to work collaboratively within a team of researchers. The applicant must possess a valid US driver's license and will be required to supervise undergraduate students to meet the research objectives of this project.

To apply: Interested candidates should submit by email a single PDF document that includes: (1) a cover letter addressing the requirements above, (2) a CV or resume, and (3) the names and contact information for three references (e-mail and phone numbers) to: Dr. Hany Dweck (hany.dweck@ct.gov). The review of applications will begin immediately and continue until a suitable candidate is identified.

About Us: Founded in 1875, the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) is a state-supported institution dedicated to basic and applied research that supports plant, environmental, and human health in Connecticut. Over eighty full-time researchers work at the main campus in New Haven, a 75-acre research farm in nearby Hamden, and at two satellite farms and laboratory facilities. CAES fosters a highly collaborative and collegial research environment and maintains close ties to nearby academic institutions, including Yale University and the University of Connecticut.

Equal employment opportunity means employment of people without consideration of age, ancestry, color, criminal record (in state employment and licensing), gender identity or expression, genetic information, intellectual disability, learning disability, marital status, mental disability (past or present), national origin, physical disability (including blindness), race, religious creed, retaliation for previously opposed discrimination or coercion, sex (pregnancy or sexual harassment), sexual orientation, veteran status, and workplace hazards to reproductive systems unless the provisions of sec. 46a-80(b) or 46a-81(b) of the Connecticut General Statutes are controlling or there are bona fide occupational qualifications excluding persons in one of the above protected classes. To file a complaint of discrimination, contact Dr. Jason White, Director, The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, 123 Huntington Street, New Haven, CT 06511, (203) 974-8440 (voice), or Jason.White@ct.gov (e-mail). CAES is an affirmative action/equal opportunity provider and employer. Persons with disabilities who require alternate means of communication of program information should contact the Chief of Services, Michael Last at (203) 974-8442 (voice), (203) 974-8502 (FAX), or Michael.Last@ct.gov (e-mail).

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