



UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA
YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA
Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences

PhD Studentship

Chemical and behavioural Ecology of honeybees

Applications are invited for a PhD position to be held within the Social Insects Research Group (SIRG), Department of Zoology and Entomology University of Pretoria. This studentship is for a period of 3 years, starting on or soon after 01 January, 2014.

Study theme

The PhD studentship focuses on the underlying chemical processes of *capensis* social parasitism and how the social parasites gain reproductive dominance in host colonies. This social parasitism had and still has tremendous implications for the apicultural industry. The details of the PhD project will be discussed with the successful candidate, to accommodate interests and strengths.

Eligibility and selection criteria

Candidates should hold an MSc in Entomology, Zoology, Analytical chemistry or any related discipline. The successful candidate will be expected to have a high degree of self-motivation, ability to work independently, and as part of a group. The candidate will be part of a vibrant research group with interests in various aspects of social insect biology especially honeybees and with worldwide international collaborations.

Experience in chemical ecology and working with honeybees or other social insects is an advantage.

Application procedure

In order to be considered for this studentship, candidates must email the following documentation (as one PDF file) to either Prof. Robin Crewe (robin.crewe@up.ac.za) or Prof. Christian Pirk (cwwpirk@zoology.up.ac.za).

1. A comprehensive Curriculum Vitae (CV), including list of publications and conference attendances (if applicable).
2. A statement of research interests and motivation stating reasons why the candidate feels he/she is suitable for the PhD studentship.
3. Names and email addresses of two referees who are willing to write a letter of recommendation (one of which MUST be the candidate's MSc supervisor).

This position is opened until filled

For more information about the SIRG, please visit: http://www.up.ac.za/zoology/old_zoology/SIRG/