Graduate Research Assistantships Available:

Several M.S. and Ph.D. assistantships in forest entomology are available at the Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology at Mississippi State University. Upcoming research opportunities in the forest entomology lab are: 1) Studying the ecological impacts and phylogeographic analysis of the newly introduced redbay ambrosia beetle in MS; 2) Utilizing remote sensing and GIS to model potential risk of European woodwasp in southern pines; 3) Utilizing remote sensing and GIS to detect forest change associated with laurel wilt disease; 4) Studying the low-population ecology, distribution, and behavior of southern pine beetle, ips beetles, and their predators. New students will be given considerable independence to develop their own research ideas and methods to suit their interests. Generous stipends and tuition waivers will be awarded to successful applicants.

The forest entomology laboratory at Mississippi State University has four broad research goals: 1) broaden *applied* scientific knowledge regarding the best integrated pest management of native (e.g. southern pine bark beetle guild) and introduced forest insect pests (e.g. redbay ambrosia beetle); 2) expand *basic* scientific knowledge about the biology, behavior, ecological roles, and biodiversity of non-pest forest insects; 3) broaden scientific understanding of the “disturbance ecology” of forest insects (both pests and non-pests) in response to various anthropogenic and environmental disturbances (e.g. climatic disturbances, habitat restoration, pollution, etc…); 4) develop and utilize Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Remote Sensing techniques to enhance detection, monitoring, prediction, and ecological modeling of the forest insect systems.

Mississippi State University is the flagship research institution in the state of Mississippi, with long-standing strengths in Agriculture and Natural Resources. With an enrollment representing all 82 Mississippi counties, 50 states and over 75 foreign countries, Mississippi State truly is an outstanding choice for tomorrow's scholars and leaders.

Interested individuals should contact Dr. John Riggins and provide a C.V./resume.

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