



**Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences**  
Department of Ecology, Uppsala

## **Post Doc position**

Characteristics of insect outbreak species and insect outbreaks

**A Post Doc position is available at the Department of Ecology at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) in Uppsala, Sweden. It is a fully financed (including salary and benefits) for a period of two years. The start date is March 2009, with some flexibility.**

It is anticipated that insect outbreaks will become more common and more severe as a consequence of climate change. Our ability to forecast outbreaks is limited. One reason is that we lack basic knowledge about (1) the life history traits of insect outbreak species, and (2) the relative role of bottom-up and top-down forces during an outbreak cycle. In addition, there is no common database of past or present outbreaks.

We seek a post doc to work on these issues. An interest and experience in modeling is desirable. The person could also (1) conduct multivariate analyses comparing life-history traits of outbreak and non-outbreak bark beetle species, (2) expand the multivariate analyses completed for lepidopterans and sawflies to include bark beetles, (3) collaborate with scientists associated with the Department to develop a conceptual model on the relative role of bottom-up and top-down forces during the cycle of an insect outbreak, (4) elaborate within this modeling effort how plant quality and quantity changes over time and in climate change scenarios, and (5) compile a database of known historical data on insect outbreaks.

The post doc would work in close connection to activities within a new Mistra-project "Future forests", taking a scenario analysis-approach. The position will be hosted by the Department of Ecology, SLU, Uppsala that offers an excellent scientific environment with several projects focusing on effects of climate change.

**Qualifications** for this position is a PhD in Biology or Ecology. Writing skills in English is necessary.

**SLU is an equal opportunity employer**

**Selection among applicants meeting the requirements** is made with reference to written application including curriculum vitae, reprints of a maximum of five selected publications, copy of PhD degree, one copy of the dissertation, a list of at least two references familiar with the applicant's qualifications, and an interview.

**Further information:** Christer Björkman, SLU Uppsala, Department of Ecology, e-mail: Christer.Bjorkman@ekol.slu.se tel. +46 18 671532

**Applications**, marked with **Ref. No. 3950/08**, must have arrived at the Registrar of SLU, P.O. Box 7070, S- 750 07 Uppsala or [registrator@slu.se](mailto:registrator@slu.se) **no later than January 20, 2009.**

SLU develops knowledge about natural resources as well as social systems – everything that lives and grows. At SLU we conduct research, teach and inform about the opportunities, and possible risks incurred, when using our forests, landscapes, soils and animals in different ways.

SLU offers a broad spectrum of educational programmes and single subject courses. About 3300 undergraduates and 800 postgraduate students are enrolled at SLU. A total of 3 000 people are employed at the University.

Main campuses are located at Alnarp, Skara, Ultuna and Umeå. Research and teaching activities are carried out throughout the country. [www.slu.se](http://www.slu.se)