

Postdoctoral Scholar in Fungal eDNA Technologies and Applications

Department of Plant Pathology, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH, U.S.A.

Invasive native and non-native fungal pathogens threaten forest resources and ecosystem services, and early detection is key to preventing their establishment. The individual working on this project will test the usefulness of both passive and active spore trapping for early detection and, as such, should have proven expertise in fungal identification using multigene phylogenetic placement as well as metabarcoding analysis, and be willing to work on developing spore trapping devices and deploying them in the field across the eastern United States. The individual will be based in the lab of Pierluigi (Enrico) Bonello in the department of Plant Pathology at the Ohio State University. The project is funded through a Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill (BIL) grant to the USDA Forest Service titled “Increasing infrastructure for early detection of native and invasive forest pathogen DNA.” The individual will be co-advised by Dr. Isabel Munck, USDA Forest Service.

Starting date: The position is available starting on May 1, 2024 (or as soon as possible thereafter) for 24 months and potentially renewable, based on availability of funds and satisfactory performance.

Requirements – At a minimum, candidates should have a PhD in plant pathology (forest pathology preferred) or equivalent degree with demonstrated expertise (publication record preferred) in molecular taxonomy (multigene phylogenies/genealogies for fungal species identification), as well as in microbiome characterization using established techniques (high throughput sequencing, bioinformatics pipelines, Qiime II, multivariate analyses, etc.).

The position carries a competitive stipend with full benefits. Please email letter of interest, specifying “Fungal eDNA” in the subject line, accompanied by CV as soon as possible to bonello.2@osu.edu. The CV must include academic record, publication record, and names of at least three professional references.

The Ohio State University is an equal opportunity employer.

All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to age, ancestry, color, disability, ethnicity, gender identity or expression, genetic information, HIV/AIDS status, military status, national origin, race, religion, sex, gender, sexual orientation, pregnancy, protected veteran status, or any other bases under the law.