
Department: In Vitro Entomology
Job Type: Regular/Exempt

Job Status: Full Time
Reports To: Head of In Vitro Entomology
Amount of Travel Required: <10%

SUMMARY

Genective, a JV between two leading global seed companies, Limagrain and KWS, is seeking a detail oriented and dexterous Entomology Assay Biologist to join our fast-growing team. The successful candidate will join an interdisciplinary program focused on the discovery, biological characterization, development, and commercialization of novel insect control traits. The candidate will be responsible for supporting and carrying out screening of putative insecticidal toxins against relevant agronomic corn insect pests in artificial diet bioassays in a collaborative and transparent environment. The Assay Biologist will conduct experiments to continuously improve, optimize, and validate the whole organism bioassays delivering high quality data yielding robust and reproducible results. Data capture, data analysis, and clear communication in both oral and written updates on experimental procedures and results will be required. The Assay Biologist will directly report to of the Head of In Vitro Entomology. The successful candidate will be a contributing member to the larger functional entomology group. The primary working location is Champaign, IL, occasional local travel may be required to the Weldon, IL research station.

THE POSITION

Entomology Assay Biologist plays a critical role as part of the overall research team in executing Genective's strategy.

Essential Responsibilities

- Screen putative insecticidal toxins for efficacy against target agronomic pests of corn in bioassays on artificial diet
- Capture, document, and share data and results in written and oral updates
- Participate in conducting experiments, data analyses, and troubleshooting assays
- Participate in the drafting and updating of SOPs and work instructions
- Assist in developing new approaches and strategies related to bioassays
- Maintain, calibrate, and clean laboratory equipment
- Order and maintain stocks and consumables for bioassays
- Assist as needed other team functions as part of the global support team mindset

QUALIFICATIONS

The ideal candidate will possess the following qualifications:

- A Bachelor's degree in entomology, biology, crop protection, agriculture or related discipline AND laboratory experience handling insects; 3+ years relevant laboratory experience preferred

- Proven ability to closely follow assay protocols resulting in high quality, robust, and reproducible data
- Energy and drive to work in both an interdisciplinary scientific team and independently
- Understanding of the fundamentals of experimental design and basic statistical data analysis and interpretation
- Ability to learn and use electronic lab notebooks and databases for data capture
- Flexible, highly self-motivated, agile, results-orientated and innovative with a purpose
- Organized with good time management skills
- Good oral and written communications skills
- Equipment skills: Microscope, pipettes, scales, paintbrushes
- Computer skills: MS-Word, Excel, PowerPoint, document stewardship

THE REWARD

Competitive base salary, bonus, 401(K), medical, dental, long-term disability and life insurance plans, fitness, education, and employee referral. Plus fun and satisfaction working in a high trust, high empowerment, high impact, entrepreneurial environment with a close-knit team

THE ORGANIZATION

About Genective

Genective is a 50/50 joint venture established in 2011 between Limagrain and KWS, two of the world's largest seed companies. With entities and activities in North America, South America, Europe, and Asia, Genective is currently dedicated to the research, development, and marketing of transgenic traits for corn.

About Limagrain

As the fourth largest seed company worldwide, Limagrain's mission is to move agriculture forward to meet global food related challenges. Limagrain is a cooperative group founded and managed by French farmers. Its parent company, Coopérative Limagrain, brings together nearly 2,000 farmers located in the center of France. The Group creates, produces and distributes field seeds, vegetable seeds and cereal products. Limagrain is present in 56 countries and has more than 10,000 employees. It makes nearly 2.5 billion Euros of sales with recognized brands on their markets: LG, Vilmorin, Hazera, Harris Moran, Jacquet, Brossard.

About KWS

KWS is one of the world's leading plant breeding companies. In the fiscal year 2017/18 more than 5,000 employees in 70 countries generated net sales of EUR 1,068 million and earnings before interest and taxes (EBIT) of EUR 133 million. A company with a tradition of family ownership, KWS has operated independently for more than 160 years. It focuses on plant breeding and the production and sale of seed for corn, sugar beet, cereals, rapeseed, sunflowers and vegetables. KWS uses leading-edge plant breeding methods to increase farmers' yields and to improve resistance to diseases, pests and abiotic stress. To that end, the company invested approximately EUR 200 million last fiscal year in research and development.

HOW TO APPLY

If interested, please send a cover letter addressing your experience running artificial diet insect bioassays and your resume to resumes@genective.com, Subject line: **Entomology Assay Biologist**