



Entomology Lead

Spotta is a VC backed, fast-growing startup in Cambridge, UK. We are commercialising our proprietary smart insect Pods to allow targeted, precision interventions and help solve the £320Bn problem of insect pests.

Our mission is to be the world's leading provider of technology, data and insights to drive more sustainable insect management. Our scalable platform uses advanced image recognition to identify and classify insects. This enables huge increases in productivity and reductions in insecticide use.

We are currently developing products in agriculture, forestry and accommodation and we are looking to develop additional products to solve other economically damaging pest problems.

The role is a rare opportunity for an entomologist to help change the world for the better and be part of a huge commercial success in an exciting, well funded startup.

You will lead Spotta's entomology activities, using your combination of specialist scientific knowledge and practical skills to work with our engineers to develop, test and deploy smart monitors for a range of different species.

We offer a fun working environment with a close-knit team who are committed to making a big impact in this underserved space.

Qualifications

PhD in Entomology, but we will consider entomologists with a Masters degree and excellent practical skills.

Role description

Spotta's entomology activities consist of four main areas:

- Design and development of the entomological aspects of our Pods. Designing and executing experiments to assess factors such as colour, materials and shape to optimally attract target species
- Testing of semiochemical lures (and collaborating on the development of new lures). Spotta has technology for the controlled release of lures which we use in our pods.
- Rearing and husbandry of insect populations
- Research into candidate species for future developments to assess where and how Spotta's technology can be beneficial.

The role will be supported by a lab technician and will work closely with our mechanical engineering team in the design of the Pods.

We are a fast growing start-up so you should also expect to participate in a wide variety of areas such as international fieldwork and customer contact. You would also have the option of speaking with investors and presenting Spotta's work to the world.



There is huge scope for the right candidate to take on increasing responsibility as Spotta continues to grow (we've doubled in size every year for 3 years!)

Attitude and culture

- Ambitious team player who is excited about Spotta's vision
- Authentic and trustworthy colleague
- Opportunity seeker who is motivated by startup life and willing to solve the challenges that emerge
- Strong attention to detail
- "Roll up your sleeves and get stuck in" attitude
- Self sufficient and able to pick up new skills on the job
- High expectations for the quality of their own and colleagues' work

Skills

- Excellent experimental design and execution
- Comfortable with numerical analysis and relevant statistical methods
- Creative problem solving
- Team management
- Ability to communicate effectively with technical and non-technical people

In addition, it would be beneficial (but not essential) if you have specific experience in any of:

- Chemical ecology (and the associated analytical techniques)
- Trap design
- Mass rearing of various insect species

We understand you may not have all the skills listed above and we will judge each application on its merits. We rank attitude and aptitude above specific skills or knowledge when choosing team-members.

Notes for Applicants

We particularly encourage applications from women and under-represented minorities in science and engineering industries. To apply, send your CV and a brief covering letter to careers@spotta.co