



AUBURN
UNIVERSITY

College of Agriculture

Graduate Student Position in Termite Behavior and Evolution Mizumoto Lab, Auburn University

The Mizumoto Lab at Auburn University is recruiting one graduate student, preferably at the PhD level with prior master's experience, to start in **Fall 2026 (August)**.

Research focus

Our lab studies the *evolution of termite sociality and collective behavior*. We combine behavioral experiments, comparative analyses, fieldwork, and computational and theoretical methods to understand how social and socio-sexual behavior evolve across species.

Research areas

The student will work on projects related to termite behavior and evolution. Ongoing projects include:

- Comparative analysis of termite collective building
- Evolution and mechanisms of tandem running
- Theoretical and computational modeling on social evolution
- Comparison of behaviors between termites and cockroaches



Students will begin a defined research project within the lab's core research themes, developed in discussion with Dr. Mizumoto. As the project progresses, students are expected to develop an independent sub-project within the scope. Projects may involve fieldwork, behavioral observation or experiments, computational analysis, or theoretical or modeling. The lab does not focus on molecular or genetic approaches.

The Position

Graduate students are fully funded through research assistantships and will conduct research under the guidance of Dr. Nobuaki Mizumoto. Students are expected to present their research at national and international conferences, publish papers in peer-reviewed journals, and actively participate in laboratory and departmental events. Applicants should have a strong interest in animal behavior, evolution, ecology, or a related field. Prior experience with insects, behavioral research, quantitative analysis, programming, or modeling is helpful but not required. Motivation, communication, and sustained engagement are essential.

Application

Interested applicants should email Dr. Nobuaki Mizumoto (nzm0095@auburn.edu) with:

1. CV
2. A brief statement of research interests
3. Contact information of three references

Review of materials begins on Jan 31, 2026.

Auburn University is an R1 research university located in a vibrant college town with easy access to natural areas. The Mizumoto Lab is part of the Department of Entomology & Plant Pathology, which hosts a friendly and collaborative community, including several labs working on social insects (ants, bees, termites).

Contact: Nobuaki Mizumoto, Assistant Professor
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