Graduate position in biological control of weeds

A research assistantship for a PhD or an MS student is available at the Department of Entomology at Michigan State University beginning in spring or summer 2021. Research will focus on biological control of knotweeds. Questions will include studying the performance of different host races of a psyllid biological control agent on different knotweed species, the synchronization of the biocontrol agent with the climate in Michigan and impact in the field. The project will involve lab rearing of the agent, greenhouse and lab studies, experimental releases and monitoring in the field across Michigan.

PhD candidates should possess an M.S. in entomology, ecology or related field and have a valid driver’s license. A strong research background as an undergraduate or as a technician can substitute for an M.S. degree. The ideal candidates have experience working with insects and/or weeds and interest in biological control. The position involves travel across Michigan often to long distances.

Applicants should send a CV, cover letter describing their experience and interest in the position, unofficial transcripts and contact information for three references to Dr. Marianna Szucs (szucsmar@msu.edu). Review of applications will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled. The position comes with a generous stipend, tuition waiver and health benefits. PhD applicants will have the opportunity to graduate with a dual degree in Entomology and EEBB (Ecology, Evolutionary Biology, and Behavior).