

## PhD Student Position Available

### The Genetic Basis of Host Preference in the Malaria Vector *Anopheles gambiae*

Dept. of Entomology / Texas A&M University

A PhD student position is available (starting in the summer 2009) in the Slotman lab in the Department of Entomology at Texas A&M University. The Slotman lab is interested in the evolutionary genetics of malaria mosquitoes, with an emphasis on the *Anopheles gambiae* complex. The major malaria vector in this complex, *An. gambiae* s.s, strongly prefers blood feeding on humans and it is strongly attracted to the smell of human sweat. This anthropophily or preference for humans is one the main reasons *An. gambiae* is such an efficient malaria vector.

The PhD candidate will investigate the genetic basis of the strong preference of *An. gambiae* for human hosts, using QTL mapping, evolutionary genetics, and gene expression approaches. The ultimate goal of the project is to identify olfaction genes responsible for the attraction of *An. gambiae* to humans. The results of this research would contribute greatly to our understanding of the biology of this important vector, and would promote the development of novel malaria control methods. For example, we expect that anthropophily genes will be promising targets for designing repellents/attractants, or for transgenic mosquito efforts.

The preferred candidate should have a strong interest in medical entomology, and some background in (evolutionary) genetics is preferred. The successful candidate will be expected to conduct mosquito crosses and behavioral assays at Wageningen University in The Netherlands from Aug 2009-Jan 2010.

For further information please contact :

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Or: to be considered for this position please send a CV, a copy of your GRE scores, transcripts, as well as a cover letter explaining your interest in the topic to [maslotman@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:maslotman@ag.tamu.edu)