The TROpical Insect Science Institute

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(Ref. No. NRS/678/122025)

RESEARCH OFFICER II

Established in 1970 and headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya, the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (www.icipe.org) is distinct, being the only research organisation in Africa working primarily on insects and other arthropods. icipe is also the sole institution that combines research and development activities across plant health, human health, animal health, and environmental health. icipe generates world-class scientific knowledge and translates it into insect-based, nature-positive, One Health innovations that sustainably transform millions of livelihoods across Africa and beyond. Additionally, icipe nurtures Africa's talent and leadership in insect science through the Centre's long-standing programmes in doctoral and postdoctoral training, advancement of research and innovation in applied sciences, engineering, and technology, and the creation of a bioeconomy in Africa. The Centre has about 500 international and national staff, operations in more than 40 countries in Africa, and over 300 partnerships with diverse organisations across the world. For additional information, visit: (www.icipe.org).

Please also download *icipe*'s Vision and Strategy 2021–2025:
http://www.icipe.org/publications/corporate-publications/vision-and-strategy.

icipe seeks to recruit a **Research Officer II** under the **Behavioural Chemical Ecology Unit.** The position is tenable in Nairobi at the *icipe* Duduville campus. This is a two-year contract, renewable subject to continued position needs, funding for the position, and the staff member's performance. This is a nationally recruited position. A competitive compensation package will be offered to the right candidate. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

Overall Purpose of the Job

This position will advance innovative research aimed at generating critical insights into the chemical ecology of Filth flies by elucidating the links between their dietary preferences and developmental performance, paving way for the development of sustainable, environmentally friendly filth fly control tools. The successful candidate will design and conduct experiments that integrate behavioural, chemical, and metabolomic approaches to unravel how dietary substrates influence fly growth, survival, and reproductive potential.

Specific duties

- Conduct to assess dietary choices in Musca domestica and related filth fly species.
- Evaluate behavioural responses and assess developmental parameters across dietary regimes.
- Extract and characterise volatile (VOCs) and non-volatile Organic compounds (non-VOCs) influencing feeding preferences using GC–MS and LC–MS techniques.
- Design and execute behavioural assays (e.g., Y-tube olfactometer, feeding preference and gustatory bioassays) experiments

- Perform high-resolution MS-based metabolomic profiling (Orbitrap, q-ToF, LC-MS) of substrates, larvae, and adult flies to identify diet-associated metabolic signatures.
- Develop and optimise semiochemicals-based lure formulations for selective attraction/repellence of filth flies.
- Conduct statistical and multivariate analysis using R, GraphPad Prism, and PAST to interpret behavioural, chemical, and biological data.
- Collaborate with multidisciplinary teams working on Chemical, behavioural ecology, and insect physiology.
- Contribute to manuscript preparation and conference presentations.

Requirements/ qualifications

- Bachelor's degree in Chemistry, Biochemistry, or a related field.
- A Master's degree in Analytical Chemistry, Chemistry, Biochemistry, or a related field will be an added advantage.
- A minimum of 3years of hands-on research experience in chemical, behavioural ecology or analytical chemistry within a recognised research institution.
- Experience conducting Behavioral and Chemical ecology experiments under controlled laboratory and field conditions.
- Demonstrated experience in sample extraction and analysis of volatile and non-volatile compounds using GC–MS or LC–MS platforms.
- Proven ability in Experimental design, method development, optimisation for various studies.
- Competence in data processing and statistical analysis tools such as R, GraphPad Prism, PAST etc.
- Excellent scientific writing, data interpretation, and presentation skills.
- Proven ability to work independently, manage time effectively, and prioritise multiple tasks within a fast-paced research environment.
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills.

Reporting

This position reports to the **Research Scientist**.

How to apply

Applications will be accepted up to 15th December 2025. Interested applicants should submit: (a) a confidential cover letter; (b) a detailed CV with names and addresses of 3 referees (including e-mail addresses); and (c) a statement illustrating suitability against the listed qualifications/competencies/abilities, and skills.

Candidates are required to apply online through: http://recruit.icipe.org or by email: recruitment@icipe.org (Kindly quote the Ref. No. and the position title on the email subject).

(*In your application, please include your current and expected basic salary per month. This is a mandatory requirement*.)

icipe is an equal opportunity employer. It fosters a multicultural work environment that values gender equity, teamwork, and respect for diversity.