

Research Grant (BI) (1 vacancy)

Reference: 2022_083_BI_ASP-PLA

A Competition is open for the attribution of 1 research grant in the framework of the project “Mites associated with Red Palm Weevil (RPW; *Rhynchophorus ferrugineus* O.) in Portugal and recombinant anti-RPW endophytic bacteria”, reference PTDC/ASP-PLA/6228/2020, within the R&D Institution CIIMAR (Interdisciplinary Centre of Marine and Environmental Research), supported by the Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia, I.P., through national funds according to the following conditions:

1. Scientific area: Biological Sciences (Plant protection – agricultural biotechnology)

2. Admission requirements:

i) The candidates must hold a Master's degree in Biological Sciences, or a related field, with a classification equal or higher than 14 values (in 20), and be enrolled in a PhD programme aiming at consolidating his scientific training through the development of research work leading to the achievement of the respective academic degree **or** in a non-degree course integrated in the educational project of a higher education institution, developed in association or cooperation with one or several R&D units. If the applicant is not yet enrolled, she/he must meet the requirements to register; enrolment will be mandatory and proof necessary **only at the moment of scholarship contracting**.

ii) A solid experience in microbiology, molecular biology and entomology. Specifically, candidates must:

1) Demonstrate training and/or experience in the following areas:

- Isolation of microbes from environmental samples;
- PCR genotyping;
- DNA manipulation;
- Microscopy;
- Insect bioassays.

Note: In the case of enrollment in courses that do not confer academic degree, the research grant can only be awarded to those who do not exceed, with the signing of the research grant contract in question, including possible renewals, an accumulated period of two years in this type of grant, consecutive or interpolated.

Academic degrees awarded by a foreign higher education institution must comply with the provisions of Decree-Law no. 66/2018 of 16th August, which approves the legal regime of recognition of academic degrees and diplomas of Higher Education, attributed by foreign higher education institutions, being any formalities established therein fulfilled only by the date of the contracting act.

3. Work plan: The candidate will be involved in isolation and molecular identification of endophytic bacteria from field-collected palm seedlings; determination of plant growth promoting (PGP) properties of the isolates by biochemical methods and pot inoculation experiments; GFP tagging of the best PGP

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candidates to characterise their colonisation potential in different plant organs; engineering of the best PGP candidates to express insecticidal factors against the insect pest red palm weevil and perform bioassays in inoculated palm seedlings; the statistical analysis of bioassay data and writing of technical reports and scientific papers for publication in peer-reviewed international journals.

4. Legislation and official rules: Law nº. 40/2004, 18th August (Research Fellowship and Studentship Regulation) in its current version; Regulations for Studentships and Fellowships of the *Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia*, I.P. and CIIMAR Grants Regulation approved by FCT.

5. Work place: The work will be carried out at CIIMAR, at the laboratory of Animal Pathology, located at Faculty of Sciences, Porto University, FC4, Rua do Campo Alegre, s/n, 4169-007 Porto, under the scientific supervision of Dr Camilo Ayra-Pardo.

6. Duration of the contract: Duration of fifteen (15) months, starting in October 2022, under the regime of exclusive dedication, eventually renewable according to legal terms.

7. Monthly salary: The monthly maintenance allowance is 1.144,64 € (one thousand one hundred and forty-four euros and sixty-four cents), in agreement with the monthly maintenance stipend table of the grants directly attributed by FCT, I.P. within the country (<https://www.fct.pt/apoios/bolsas/valores.phtml.en>). Payment will be made by bank transfer. In addition to this allowance, the grantee will be covered by a personal accident insurance.

8. Selection methods: The ranking of candidates will be performed by an initial evaluation based on:

- Academic degrees – 15%;
- Proven ability to carry out independent research – 20%;
- Solid experience in microbiology techniques, molecular biology, and insect bioassays – 50% ;
- Proficiency in English (technical level) – 10%;
- Other relevant Curriculum Vitae information – 5%.

If deemed necessary, the jury may include an interview with the first 3 candidates to clarify aspects related to the research results. This interview will have a relative weight of 40% and the previous evaluation a relative weight of 60%.

The jury reserves the right to not assign the research grant if none of the candidates meets all requirements and match the desired profile.

9. Composition of the jury selection:

President of the jury: Prof. Maria Joao Santos

Vogal: Dr. Camilo Ayra Pardo

Vogal: Dr. Luis Filipe Rangel

10. Form of Advertising/notification of results: The final results of the evaluation will be published through a list sorting the candidates according to their attributed mark, on the CIIMAR website and by e-mail; After the announcement of the results, candidates are considered automatically notified to, if they wish to do so, comment on the results on a preliminary hearing period within 10 working days

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after that date, as provided for in the *Código do Procedimento Administrativo*. The jury reserves the right to not assign the grant depending on the quality of the applications.

In case of resignation or withdrawal of the selected candidate, the next candidate with the highest evaluation score will be notified immediately.

Based on the final sorted list of the candidates it will be made a reserve list that will be used for the future recruitment of grantees for this project.

11. Deadline for application and presentation of applications: The competition is open from **15/09/2022** until **29/09/2022**. The applications must be formalized, compulsorily, by sending the following documents:

- detailed Curriculum vitae with clear specification of i) list of peer-reviewed publications, books and/or reports proof of the experience in the above-mentioned fields ii) list of computer skills (software and/or programming languages for simulation and data analysis; new developed software);
- copy of the eligibility certificates;
- evidence of enrollment in a doctoral program or in a non-academic degree courses integrated in the educational project of a higher education institution, developed in association or cooperation with one or more R&D units;
- motivation letter;
- one or more reference contact information of current or past supervisors;
- contact e-mail address and phone number;
- any other documents that the candidates may recognize as relevant to demonstrate the adequacy to the function.

The applications must be sent by e-mail to: rh@ciimar.up.pt and mjsantos@fc.up.pt, with the reference “2022_083_BI_ASP-PLA” in the subject line. The applications that do not include all the elements previously indicated will not be considered.

12. Non-discrimination and equal access policy: CIIMAR actively promotes a non-discrimination and equal access policy, wherefore no candidate can be privileged, benefited, impaired or deprived of any rights whatsoever, or be exempt of any duties based on their ancestry, age, sex, sexual preference, marital status, family and economic conditions, instruction, origin or social conditions, genetic heritage, reduced work capacity, disability, chronic illness, nationality, ethnic origin or race, origin territory, language, religion, political or ideological convictions and union membership.

Pursuant to Decree-Law no. 29/2001 of 3 February, disabled candidates shall be preferred in a situation of equal classification, and said preference supersedes any legal preferences. Candidates must declare, on their honour, their respective disability degree, type of disability and communication/expression means to be used during selection period on their application form, under the regulations above.

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