



Insect Biology Research Institute (IRBI), UMR 7261  
CNRS / University François-Rabelais of Tours (France)

# 1 Open PhD position

## *The evolution of social life in insects*

We invite applications for a 3-years PhD position at the Insect Biology Research Institute (IRBI) located at the University of Tours, France. The project aims at better understanding the evolution of social life in insects by focusing on the European earwig (see picture), a species in which family life is complex, temporary and facultative. The PhD student will investigate how parent-offspring interactions may improve resistance against pathogens, enhance food acquisition and limit the expression of social conflicts in this species. The scientific project includes standard laboratory setups, behavioral experiments, pathogen manipulation and life-history traits measurements (including immunity). Depending on the student interests, the project may also include chemical ecology, as well as quantitative/population genetics.

Our research institute offers an excellent, international, dynamic and interactive scientific environment (<http://irbi.univ-tours.fr/>) with state-of-the-art, newly equipped laboratories. Information on the scientific work of our group can be found here: <http://joelmeunier.wixsite.com/researchpage>. Do not hesitate to contact Joël Meunier (see email below) for more detailed information.

Tours is a beautiful historic city located on the Loire Valley with many students and a rich social and cultural life (<http://www.tours-tourism.co.uk/>). Note that the university has a “welcome center” to help foreign PhD students setting up in Tours.

The position requires a Master degree in Biology (or a related field). The successful candidate should have a strong background in evolutionary biology and/or behavioral ecology. Good skills in biostatistics or a high motivation to improve the statistical knowledge (e.g. R language) are important. Moreover, the candidate is expected to be very motivated, energetic, independent and have a good team spirit. The position is funded by the French Ministry of Research. People from every nationality are encouraged to apply.

Interested candidates should send applications to Joël Meunier ([joel.meunier@univ-tours.fr](mailto:joel.meunier@univ-tours.fr)). The application should be sent as a single document (pdf format) containing a detailed motivation letter (max. 1.5 pages), a curriculum vitae (with the grades of Bachelor and Master classes), a summary of the Master thesis (max. 500 words and the expected date of completion if applicable) and the email of 2-3 potential referees.

**The deadline for applications is the 26<sup>th</sup> of March 2017 (included).**

The starting date for the position is September 2017.

