Postdoctoral Position in Plant Biotechnology

Molecular Plant-Pest Dynamics for Sustainable Protection Group

Centro de Biotecnología y Genómica de Plantas (CBGP, UPM-INIA/CSIC)
Madrid, Spain

🌐 Research group information:
https://www.cbgp.upm.es/molecular-plant-pest-dynamics-for-sustainable-protection

Project: WALL-MITE

"Role of the plant cell wall in the trade-off between growth and defense during spider mite infestation"

Position Description

The Molecular Plant-Pest Dynamics for Sustainable Protection group, led by Dr. Mª Estrella Santamaría, is seeking a highly motivated postdoctoral researcher to join the Centro de Biotecnología y Genómica de Plantas (CBGP, UPM-INIA/CSIC).

The WALL-MITE project focuses on understanding the role of the plant cell wall in regulating the balance between plant growth and defense responses during plant-pest interactions, with special emphasis on spider mite infestation. The selected candidate will investigate how cell wall dynamics influence the molecular dialogue between plants and herbivorous pests, combining molecular biology, genetics, and functional analysis approaches in a dynamic and highly collaborative research environment.

Candidate Profile

PhD in Plant Biotechnology, Molecular Plant Biology, or related fields
Strong background in plant molecular biology
Previous experience in plant-pest interactions will be highly valued
Experience in plant cell wall biology or functional studies will be considered an asset
High level of spoken and written English
Basic bioinformatics and image analysis skills

Key Skills

Scientific independence and leadership capacity
Strong commitment and responsibility in project development
Excellent communication skills, particularly for scientific presentations
Proactive and collaborative attitude within the research group

What We Offer

Opportunity to join an internationally recognized center in plant biotechnology (CBGP)
Highly collaborative, international, and competitive scientific environment
Permanent contract linked to the project
Competitive salary: €26,000 – €32,000 gross/year depending on profile and experience
Expected starting date: September 2026

Flexibility in the incorporation date for the right candidate

📩 How to Apply

Updated CV
Motivation letter (maximum 1 page)
Contact details of referees

☆ Why Join Us?

This position offers the opportunity to work on a biologically and agriculturally relevant research question at the interface between plant development and defense. The project will provide insight into how plant cell wall remodeling shapes plant-pest interactions and contributes to sustainable crop protection strategies. The group fosters scientific independence, critical thinking, and professional development within a supportive and stimulating environment.

✉ Contact

Applications and inquiries should be sent to: me.santamaria@upm.es

Please contact us only if you are genuinely interested in the position and your profile matches the requirements described above.

We welcome motivated candidates interested in advancing research on

plant cell wall biology and plant-pest interactions.