Open position for a Ph.D. student in evolutionary ecology and physiological ecology at the University of Guelph

The Husband and Maherali Labs in the Department of Integrative Biology at the University of Guelph are seeking a Ph.D. candidate to examine the physiological and ecological consequences of genome multiplication. Whole genome multiplication, or polyploidy, has occurred throughout the evolutionary history of plants, with elevated chromosome numbers in at least 70% of all angiosperm species. Because polyploids are reproductively isolated from their parents, genome duplication is considered an engine of speciation. However, newly formed polyploids can persist in nature only if they out-compete their diploid progenitors, ensure assortative mating, or have distinct physiological tolerances that allow them to exploit new niches. The successful applicant will design and carry out experiments to test for physiological mechanisms that are responsible for the successful establishment and competitive ability of polyploids relative to their diploid progenitors.

Interested applicants should submit a CV, unofficial transcript, a letter describing their research interests and career goals, and contact information for two referees to Dr. Brian Husband (bhusband@uoguelph.ca) and Dr. Hafiz Maherali (maherali@uoguelph.ca). Questions about the position can be directed to either Dr. Husband or Dr. Maherali.

Candidates must be Canadian citizens or permanent residents. The successful applicant should possess a strong transcript (at least a B+ GPA) and prior research experience either at the undergraduate or M.Sc. level. The successful applicant will be guaranteed financial support for a minimum of 4 years. Applications will be considered until March 1, 2013, for a September 2013 start date.