Junior Specialist Position  
Dr. Philipp Zerbe lab, Dept. of Plant Biology, UC Davis  

The laboratory of Dr. Zerbe wishes to employ a Junior specialist 100% time in order to contribute to research on the investigation of environmental adaptation mechanisms in monocot crops. The special focus is to identify and analyze species-specific genes, enzymes, and pathways involved in drought and pathogen stress response with the goal of developing crops with improved resistance traits.

a. Performance in Research (90%): This position requires creative contributions to an active research program to investigate chemical defense mechanisms in monocot crops. The candidate will help to determine research goals for defined projects in regular consultation with the Principal Investigator (PI) and a senior postdoctoral researcher. She/He will assist in designing and conducting research projects, including the selection of appropriate approaches, and to document and organize the results in preparation of scientific publications, presentations or grant proposals. Active participation in the writing and editing of scientific papers is expected and will be a core training component. In order to train the candidate for this role, the candidate will be expected to participate in peer review under the mentorship of the PI and postdoctoral researcher. The candidate will mentor and coordinate the activities of a pool of undergraduate students regarding the technical aspects of the research, including harvest of plant material, metabolite extraction from plant tissues, protein expression, enzyme product purification, GC-MS, LC-MS and HPLC analyses, and trouble-shooting problems, interpreting results, planning follow-up experiments. Experience in standard microbiology protocols, RNA extraction, PCR, gel electrophoresis, computational sequence analysis, Agrobacterium inoculation and injection into Nicotiana benthamiana plants, general greenhouse/growth chamber upkeep and plant maintenance, protein expression in Escherichia coli and N. benthamiana, enzyme activity assays, and a strong work ethic are expected.

b. Professional Competence & Activity (5%): The candidate will be expected to actively contribute to the biweekly lab meeting, and will present to that same forum an average of 2 times a year on the research progress made. In addition, the candidate will contribute to on average 2 annual project meetings associated with collaborative projects, which will include assistance with meeting organization, preparation of meeting materials and contribution to project discussions and planning. The candidate will further attend seminars and may present research results and is encouraged to interact with professional interest groups.

c. University and Public Service (5%): The candidate will engage in public outreach activities that include presenting scientific research results to students and the general public.

QUALIFICATIONS  
Minimum Qualifications:  
Bachelor’s degree in Plant Biology, Biochemistry or related scientific fields.  
A strong interest in plant metabolism.  
Excellent organizational and communications skills.  
Computer literacy (Word, Excel, PowerPoint).
Preferred Qualifications:
Familiarity with mass spectrometry-based experiments is a strong asset.
Experience in functional enzyme analysis is desirable but not essential.
Familiarity with lab management and safety procedures is beneficial but not essential.

To apply: Qualified applicants should submit a cover letter, CV, one letter of recommendation and a Statement of Contributions to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, via this URL: https://recruit.ucdavis.edu/apply/JPF04185. The deadline for full consideration is May 31, 2021.
Questions: Please direct questions to Dr. Philipp Zerbe, pzerbe@ucdavis.edu.

- The University of California, Davis commits to inclusion excellence by advancing equity, diversity and inclusion in all that we do. We are an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity employer, and particularly encourage applications from members of historically underrepresented racial/ethnic groups, women, individuals with disabilities, veterans, LGBTQ community members, and others who demonstrate the ability to help us achieve our vision of a diverse and inclusive community.
- Under Federal law, the University of California may employ only individuals who are legally able to work in the United States as established by providing documents as specified in the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986. Certain UC Davis positions funded by federal contracts or sub-contracts require the selected candidate to pass an E-Verify check. More information is available http://www.uscis.gov/e-verify.
- UC Davis is a smoke & tobacco-free campus (http://breathtefree.ucdavis.edu/). If you need accommodation due to a disability, please contact the recruiting department.