PhD position in Animal Health Theme

About the position
A three-year PhD position related to tick and tick-borne diseases (TBDs) biodiversity and control is available in icipe’s Animal Health theme.

The Animal Health Theme undertakes research and development to find solutions to vector-borne infectious diseases and other constraints that limit the productivity of livestock in Africa. The theme strives to improve livestock health and protect the human population from exposure to animal-associated pathogens through understanding of the epidemiology of vector-transmitted diseases, and an understanding of vector ecology and dynamics. The group carries our research mainly in the interface between human, livestock and wildlife. Our main activities are linked to ticks, tsetse flies and biting flies, and the pathogens they transmit.

Ticks and tick-borne diseases pose a considerable challenge to livestock productivity and impact the livelihoods of resource-limited farming communities in Africa. This is exacerbated by widespread resistance to acaricides. As in the case of most neglected tropical infectious diseases, one major weakness in the fight against TBDs is the lack of information on the epidemiology of the diseases.

The project aims to improve knowledge of tick biodiversity, occurrence and distribution of tick-borne diseases (TBDs). The project will also explore the efficacy of biorational tick control approaches in field condition adding to the current efforts to sustainable vector control through innovative, effective and locally adapted approaches.

Main tasks
The project that the suitable candidate will be working will focus in the coastal region of Kenya. The suitable candidate will contribute to generating data to aid understanding of disease transmission pathways, risk factors, and determine the presence of ticks and TBDs, and quantify their impact. In addition, the student will have the opportunity to test a field trial of biorational tick control methods. Analysis of data, interpretation and sharing of research findings in reputable peer reviewed journals, and conferences.
Qualifications and skills

The ideal candidate will have

- MSc. degree from a recognized university ideally in tropical parasitology, molecular biology or entomology with experience with molecular biology or related fields.
- Demonstrable knowledge of the biodiversity of ticks and tick-borne pathogens
- Experience in integrated vector control, disease control and epidemiology of TBDs
- Skills in working using statistical applications such as R and SPSS
- Knowledge on molecular epidemiology of pathogens will be an advantage.
- Fluent in written and spoken English. Swahili will be an added advantage.

Further information

For further research information and application can be sent to the email address below: vatieno@icipe.org

Applications will be received until Friday 22nd March 2019.