



PHD OPPORTUNITY - NERC STUDENTSHIP

TRADE-OFFS IN LIFE-HISTORY TRAITS OF *C. ELEGANS* IN COMPETITIVE ENVIRONMENTS

The nematode *C. elegans* varies in an environmentally-sensitive phenotypically plastic trait (arrested vs. non-arrested development). We have discovered that there is a trade-off between this plasticity and aspects of reproduction, suggesting that there may be two different 'strategies' for coping with environmental stress. We have also genetically mapped the phenotypic plasticity trait. This work is now continuing with a new NERC-funded project which will refine the genetic mapping of these traits and investigate how the traits (and their trade-offs) are affected by artificial selection. You can read more about our previous work in Harvey *et al.*, 2008 *BMC Evolutionary Biology*, **8**:15 (<http://www.biomedcentral.com/1471-2148/8/15>).

There is now an opportunity to join this work, particularly looking at how the trade-offs between these traits behave in competitive environments.

My lab. also works on parasitic nematodes, particularly *Strongyloides* spp. We have recently extended our work in a new direction, investigating immune function in wild rodents. You can read more about our work at <http://nematode.bio.bris.ac.uk/>

If you are interested in this PhD opportunity, then please send me your CV, including the names of two referees.

This PhD opportunity will be in open competition with other projects and candidates within the department with a deadline of 20th February.

Mark Viney
School of Biological Sciences,
Woodland Road,
University of Bristol,
Bristol,
BS8 1UG.

Mark.Viney@bristol.ac.uk