Josephine Antwi

Assistant Professor at University of Mary Washington
Fredericksburg, VA, US

Dr. Antwi is an entomologist whose research focuses on the effects that sucking-piercing insect pests have on crops of economic importance.

Biography

To Josephine Antwi, an entomologist at the University of Mary Washington, the spotted lanternfly isn?t just a pesky insect. This invasive species snacks on Chinese sumac ? but also grapes, stone fruits and apples ? making it a grave threat to the agricultural industry. Dr. Antwi?s research uses an interdisciplinary approach, including molecular, evolutionary and microbiology to address ecological factors shaping plant-insect interactions in agro- and natural ecosystems. In agro-ecosystems, her research addresses various questions on the effect that sucking-piercing insect pests have on crops of economic importance. Insect pests of interest include the cotton fleahopper (Pseudatomoscelis seriatus), various Lygus species, sugarcane aphid (Melanaphis sacchari), and the aforementioned spotted lanternfly (Lycorma delicatula). Crops of interest include cotton, sorghum, and potatoes. In natural ecosystems, she explores the impacts of urbanization on insect pollinators. Current research projects in Dr. Antwi?s lab include identifying microbial control agents against the spotted lanternfly and assessing the impact of urban green spaces on the assemblages of insect pollinators.

Areas of Expertise

Plant-Insect-Microbes Interactions, Entomology, Ecology, Molecular Ecology, Urbanization on Insect Pollinators

Affiliations

Entomological Society of America

Event Appearances

Comparing insect pollinator diversity and abundance in urban green spaces and low-maintenance habitats.
Annual (virtual) meeting of Entomological Society of America

Biogeochemistry of reclaimed sand-mined soils in the Atlantic coastal plain, Caroline County, Virginia.
Annual meeting of Geological Society of America

Lygus bugs on potatoes in the Pacific Northwest.
65th Annual meeting of Entomological Society of America

The role of Lygus sp. in the epidemiology of BLTVA in potatoes in the Pacific Northwest.
25th International Congress of Entomology

Fungal endophytes, Beauvaria bassiana and Phialemonium inflatum positively affect the growth of sorghum and impact the behavior and performance of the sugarcane aphid, Melanaphis sacchari.
63rd Annual meeting of Entomological Society of America

Education

Texas A&M University
Ph.D. Entomology

Southeastern Louisiana University
M.S. Biological Sciences

Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi
B.S. Natural Resource Management

Accomplishments

Faculty and Undergraduate Research Grants
2019-2020 University of Mary Washington

Program Enhancement Fund from the Entomological Society of America
2017

Northwest Potato Research Consortium Grants
2017

Texas EcoLab Research Grant
2012-2015

Entomology Student Enhancement Fund
2012

Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Program Travel Award
2012 Texas A&M University

Norman Bourlag International Agricultural Science and Technology Fellows Program Grant
2011 Finalist

Graduate Student Fellowship, Interdisciplinary Program, Faculty of Genetics
2010 Texas A&M University