

## Announcement of Postdoctoral Fellowship

A postdoctoral fellowship is available in the project “Symbiolite - A novel microbial-algal calcification process driven by coral symbiotic algae: Structure, function, ecological role and evolutionary significance” funded by Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia (FCT), with the following conditions.

The fellowship has a duration of 12 months, with the possibility of two renewals of up to 12 months each until the end of the project. Starting date is 01.07.2016, in exclusiveness regime, as regulated by the “Regulamento da Formação Avançada e Qualificação de Recursos Humanos” da Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia (<http://www.fct.pt/apoios/bolsas/regulamento.phtml.pt>).

Dinoflagellates of the genus *Symbiodinium* are important coral symbionts. Previous work of the team has resulted in the discovery that free-living *Symbiodinium* spp. in culture commonly form calcifying bacterial-algal communities that produce aragonitic spherulites – ‘symbiolites’ – and encase the dinoflagellates as endolithic cells. This discovery offers entirely new perspectives on fundamental questions regarding the life cycle and ecology of these important dinoflagellates.

The postdoctoral fellow is expected to further explore this new field of research at the cross section of microbial-algal calcification, *Symbiodinium* ecology and biogeochemistry through the study of: i) the processes that drive symbiolite formation; ii) the diversity of bacterial communities associated with cultured and naturally occurring symbiolites; iii) the functional role of symbiolites in the *Symbiodinium* life cycle and ecology; in particular, the effects of the incorporation of living *Symbiodinium* cells in symbiolite on their photosynthetic performance and the potential photoprotective role of symbiolites against UVR exposure; iv) the potential role of symbiolite formation and changes in ocean chemistry over geological time scales in the establishing of the coral algal symbiosis; v) the occurrence of symbiolites in nature.

Academic profile: PhD in Biology or related area with a demonstrated ability for independent and creative research. Experience in microbial ecology, phycology, photo-/eco-physiology and molecular genetics are highly desirable. Preference will be given to candidates with experience in in vivo photosynthesis measurements (FRRF and PAM, microelectrodes) as well as microbial and molecular genetics techniques. Good English skills are essential.

The allocation of the fellowship is based on the Statute for Research Scholars and the Research Grants Regulation by the Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT), I.P. (<http://www.fct.pt/apoios/bolsas/docs/RegulamentoBolsasFCT2015.pdf>) and the Grants Regulation of Scientific Research of the University of Aveiro (Despacho n.º 9887/2005 (2ª série), de 13 de Abril). The fellowship will be €1.495,00/month + voluntary social security, according to FCT regulations for scientific fellowships in Portugal (<http://alfa.fct.mctes.pt/apoios/bolsas/valores>). The scholarship is paid monthly through bank transfer.

Applications should send the following documents: Candidate form (available at <http://www.ua.pt/drh>, under Bolseiros/Modelo de Candidatura); Curriculum vitae, Copy of PhD certificate, ID card or Passport, Taxpayer card; motivation letter and two reference letters.

Applications should be sent by email or by mail, from 13.05.2016 to 27.05.2016, to the following address: João Serôdio, Department of Biology, University of Aveiro, Campus de Santiago, 3810-193 Aveiro, Portugal; Email: [jserodio@ua.pt](mailto:jserodio@ua.pt)

The evaluation will take into account the applicant's merit, curriculum and training profile. In case of equally qualified candidates, interviews will be conducted. The jury responsible for the selection will consist of: Chairman: Prof. Dr. João Serôdio. Other members: Dr. Artur Alves and Dr. Jörg Frommlet (Department of Biology, University of Aveiro, CESAM). The final evaluation results will be communicated to all candidates by e-mail and within the periods prescribed by applicable law.