Effect of climate on plant disease resistance

PhD position in molecular plant-fungus interactions

Open at the Laboratoire des Interactions Plante-Microorganismes (LIPM) Toulouse, France

Funded by LIPM & INRA SPE



Project description

Sclerotinia sclerotiorum is causing dramatic losses on numerous crop species such as rapeseed and sunflower. Plant disease resistance to *S. sclerotiorum* is quantitative ("QDR"), a form of plant immunity frequent in nature, the genetic bases of which are poorly known (Roux et al. 2014, Mbengue et al. 2016, Peyraud et al 2016).

Climatic conditions have a strong impact on *Sclerotinia* epidemics in fields, and on the activity of QDR genes in laboratory experiments. The diversity of molecular mechanisms associated with QDR remains largely unexplored, so is the influence of environment parameters on their activity. The project uses multidisciplinary approaches combining genetics, microscopy and genome-scale transcriptomics to reveal, in a targeted and a systematic manner, new molecular mechanisms underlying QDR under diverse climate conditions.

The Lab

The Laboratory for Plant-Microbe Interaction studies (LIPM) provides an excellent environment to study plant-microbe interactions, with internationally recognized teams of plant biologists and microbiologists and complementary expertise in symbiotic and pathogenic interactions. It is part of the Federative Institute FR3450 (www.fraib.fr) and the TULIP labex excellence program (www.labex-tulip.fr) that includes ~400 researchers working on plant biology, microbiology, ecology and evolution, as well as a state-of-the-art facilities for live cell imaging (www.trigenotoul.com), genomics (www.get.genotoul.fr) and phenotyping.

Apply before 15th nov 2018

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Contact and application

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Applications should include a cover letter, CV, and contact information for two references.

Qualification requirements

Applicants must hold a Msc degree or equivalent in biology (plant biology, microbiology or closely related field)