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Biological Control of Insect Pests: Expressing Genes that Encode Highly Specific Toxins from *Bacillus thuringiensis* (*Bt*) in Rootstocks of Target Trees

The project, led by Professors Eitan Ben-Dov[1,3], Zvi Mendel[2], and Arieh Zaritsky[1], is conducted at [1]Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Be'er-Sheva, [2]Agricultural Research Center, Beit-Dagan, and [3]Achva Academic College, and financed mainly by the Israel Ministry of Agriculture.

The Student/Trainee can be registered in The Faculty of Agriculture of The Hebrew University or in Ben-Gurion University of the Negev.

The project involves cloning of a selected set of *cry* and *cyt* genes from field-isolates of *Bt* that have been demonstrated toxic to 3 species of the Coleopteran *Capnodis*, pest of stone-fruit trees.

Soon after larval *Capnodis* spp hatch, they enter the roots of such trees and destroy them, and hence no currently available efficient method exists to combat this beetle pest.

The cloned genes will be engineered for expression in (a) *Escherichia coli* and *Bt*, (b) plant model systems protoplasts of *Arabiposis thaliana* and embryos of almonds (transiently) and finally (c) roots of stone-fruit trees.

If you are interested, please get in touch with Professor Arieh Zaritsky (http://ariehz.weebly.com/):

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