

## **Field and Laboratory activities for the project *Beauveria bassiana***

**Flenadia M. Moore**

**STEP Employee 2011-2012**

**Supervisor: Maribel Portilla**

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The interviewing or observation of people to learn their languages, folklore, and social structures constitutes fieldwork; especially when humans themselves are the subject of study, protocols must be devised to reduce the risk of observer bias and the acquisition of too theoretical or idealized explanations of the actual workings of a culture. Participant observation, data collection, and survey research are examples of field research, in contrast to what is often called experimental or lab research.

My name is Flenadia M. Moore. I have been part of the STEP program since June 2010. I have been working with the Southern Insect Management Research Unit for a little over two years, and I have and will constantly learn new and amazing things. I moved to the National Biological Control Laboratory in November 2010 to work with the project *Beauveria bassiana* under the supervision of Maribel Portilla.

This summer I have been doing several field and laboratory activities as well as *Lygus* colony maintenance. Some of those activities are: Powder production of 12 strains of *B. bassiana*, small cotton plant production using incubators for *B. bassiana* bioassays,

hemocytometer counts and germination for *B. Bassiana* quality control, artificial diet preparation, building up different *Lygus* colonies, *B. bassiana* field applications. During this summer I was mainly involved in red eye colony selection in order to have enough population of this strain to evaluate the effect of *B. bassiana* on red eye and compared with the regular eye strain.

Working for USDA ARS Southern Insects Management Research Unit has truly been a great experience. I think that everyone should consider themselves scientists regardless of our work or profession. So I am first and foremost a scientist and permit it to direct my thinking in all other areas. We all use the scientific method whether we are aware of it or not; it doesn't make any sense to say that you rely on unreason or irrationality. That's exactly why I love what I do and would do it for a hundred more years! I think that this program is a great opportunity for young people, especially the one's interested in science and I hope it continues.....