

The Eco-Ethology Research Unit from ISPA (Lisbon) ([www.ispa.pt/ui/uie/ibbg](http://www.ispa.pt/ui/uie/ibbg)) is offering a master project in the following topic:

### **Project 1 - “Functional genomics of reproductive behaviours and male alternative reproductive tactics in the blenny *Salaria pavo*”**

The project will focus on how variation in gene expression regulates reproductive behaviours and male alternative reproductive tactics in the blenny *Salaria pavo*. In this species male alternative reproductive tactics have been described where large males adopt nests and court females while small males mimic the female's morphology and courtship displays in order to approach the nests of larger males and parasitically fertilize eggs. These alternative reproductive tactics are sequential as parasitic males later develop into nesting males. The project will focus on the changes that take place in gene expression in relevant tissues (brain, secondary sexual characters) during the transition and aims to contribute for the understanding of the genetic mechanisms underlying plasticity in sex-related morphological and behavioural traits in fish. The candidate will be based, and conduct the majority of the laboratory work at ISPA, in Lisbon, under the direct supervision of Dr. David Gonçalves. A suitable candidate should have relevant laboratory experience in molecular biology. Candidates should send a copy of their CV's and a motivation letter to [davidg@ispa.pt](mailto:davidg@ispa.pt).



**23-12-2009**