Job Title: Entomology Intern

Added here on 24 Jul 2008

Job Type: full-time temporary position

Opportunity location:

Closing date (if specified): No date specified (will remain here for 90 days from posting date)

Opportunity Description:

Entomology Intern Needed

Entomology Intern, USGS-Biological Resources Division, Hawaii. Approximately 3-4 month position.

Summary: The intern will assist with laboratory and field research aimed to: 1. Map distributions of invasive ants within Hawaii Volcanoes National Park and develop methods to control their spread; 2. Measure arthropod prey availability for forest birds. 3. Identify whether pollination is a limiting factor in the reproductive success of 12 rare and endangered plant species.

The intern’s time will be spent doing field work and supplemental lab work. This is a unique opportunity for someone interested in Biological Field work, entomology, pollination biology, avian food ecology, and conservation.

Location: Hawaii, Island of Hawaii: Hawaii Volcanoes National Park

Expenses Paid: $400/month stipend towards food. Housing is provided. Field gear, including pants, rain gear, and a backpack are supplied for the duration of the internship. An allowance towards field boots (approximately half the cost) is provided. Travel to and from Hawaii is the responsibility of the intern.

Duties: The intern’s main responsibility will be fieldwork, which will involve back country ant surveys and tree climbing to check arthropod traps. Additionally the intern may participate in behavioral observations of pollinators, and some vegetation sampling. Intern will (in the lab): sort and prepare specimens using a microscope; collect, curate and identify arthropod specimens; perform data entry; and assist with other entomological tasks as needed.

Desired qualifications: Tree climbing or other climbing experience is preferred but not required. Ability to walk long distances over rugged, uneven terrain and to work in remote locations. Ability to work independently and as part of a team. Experience collecting, sorting, curating (pinning and labeling) and identifying insects. Basic
computer skills such as data entry and word processing.

Field Site: Field work will take place in and around Volcanoes National Park and Hakalau Forest National Wildlife Refuge. This work will involve strenuous hiking over uneven terrain (lava) and long field days under exposure to intense UV light and varying weather conditions.

Other info: Days can be long and work is demanding, but the schedule provides time for relaxation and exploring Hawaii (birding, snorkeling, swimming, surfing, diving, hiking, and biking). There are many opportunities for outreach in the Biology community, including opportunities to work with rare and endangered species found only in Hawaii. Public access to Hakalau Forest National Wildlife Refuge is restricted but interns will have access to rare bird habitat. Interns live in shared housing located in Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, site of one of the world’s most active volcanoes. Closest full size town is Hilo, about 45 minutes drive away. Computers are available for e-mail and resume writing.

To apply, email a cover letter, resume, and contact information for at least 3 references (phone number and email address) to: Matt Stelmach: MStelmach@usgs.gov. Applications accepted until position is filled.

For more info, contact:

Matt Stelmach: MStelmach@usgs.gov