

PhD – Graduate Research Assistantship

Macroevolutionary Patterns of Plant Defenses using Metabolomics (Panama)

Utah State University, Logan, Utah, United States

Application Deadline: December 1, 2017 or earlier

Start date: Spring 2018 or Fall 2018

Website: <https://seedscape.github.io/BeckmanLab/GraduatePosition.html>

Qualifications

- Previous research experience
 - Ability to work independently and collaboratively within a team
 - Strong written and oral communication skills
 - Prior experience conducting chemical analyses, especially liquid chromatography, is a plus.
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Description

A PhD position is available in the Beckman Lab in the Biology Department & Ecology Center to investigate macroevolutionary patterns of trait variation in leaves, fruit, and seeds of trees and shrubs in Panama using a metabolomics approach. Plants experience simultaneous and often conflicting selective pressures from a diversity of antagonists and mutualists that feed on different plant parts at different stages of development. Yet, the large body of theory developed to understand plant defense has focused almost exclusively on leaves and leaf herbivores, with little integration of the important interactions in other parts, such as fruits. This project aims to extend leaf defense theory to better understand patterns of trait variation and interactions that occur across leaves, fruits, and seeds.

Application Materials

Interested candidates should contact Dr. Beckman (noelle.beckman AT [usu.edu](mailto:noelle.beckman@usu.edu)) with a letter of interest, CV, and contact information for two references. In your letter, include a description of your research interests and why you are interested in joining the research group as well as a summary of your prior research experience and your academic background (e.g., relevant coursework). For more information about the Beckman Lab, visit www.noellebeckman.com

Submit applications and further questions to:

Contact Person: Dr. Noelle G Beckman

Mailing Address: 5305 Old Main Hill | Logan, UT 84322

Telephone: 435-797-4115

E-mail: noelle.beckman AT usu.edu