

Postdoctoral Research Associate in Chemical Ecology of Seed Dispersal

The Whitehead Lab (www.speciesinteractions.com) in the Department of Biological Sciences at Virginia Tech is hiring a post-doctoral research associate to study the chemical ecology of seed dispersal interactions. The successful applicant will collaborate on a 2-year NSF-funded project to understand how fruit chemistry in one of the most diverse groups of plants—the tropical genus *Piper*—impacts the dispersal services provided by frugivorous bats (*Carollia* spp.) and secondary removal and dispersal by ants. The post-doc will lead experiments to determine how fruit chemistry impacts bat and ant seed handling, and how animal handling, in turn, impacts seed chemistry and seed germination success. In addition, the applicant would be expected to develop their own projects that relate to the general research areas of the lab and to serve as a mentor for a culturally and ethnically diverse group of undergraduate and graduate students in the field and lab. The post-doc will join a center of excellence in ecology, evolution, and organismal biology at Virginia Tech and will conduct extensive field research at La Selva Biological Station in Costa Rica. The exact start date is negotiable between July 15 and Dec 2019.



Qualifications

A PhD in ecology and evolutionary biology or a related field.

Additional desirable experience

- Strong writing skills and evidence of ability to carry projects through to publication
 - Experience designing and carrying out field experiments
 - Experience handling bats or other vertebrates
 - Experience maintaining insect colonies and conducting laboratory bioassays
 - Background in analytical chemistry techniques such as GC/MS and HPLC
 - Statistical skill-set in mixed models and multivariate analyses, and experience with programming/data analysis in R
 - Proficiency in Spanish
 - Experience with supervision/mentorship of student researchers
 - Demonstrated commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion in science
 - Strong organization skills and experience managing project logistics such as permits, travel, scheduling project personnel, maintaining equipment, and ordering/organizing supplies
- Please note that you don't need all of these skills to be considered an excellent candidate. Most importantly, we want a field ecologist who is motivated to better understand the living world and excited to learn!*

To apply

Qualified applicants must electronically submit an online application at <https://listings.jobs.vt.edu/postings/99342>. The application should include a CV, a brief cover letter that includes a statement of interest and what you could contribute to the lab, and a list of three references with contact info. Questions should be directed to swhitehead@vt.edu. Review of applications will begin on July 10, 2019 and continue until the position is filled. Apply to posting #SRO190119. Virginia Tech is committed to building a culturally diverse faculty and strongly encourages applications from women and minorities.

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For inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies, contact the executive director for Equity and Accessibility at 540-231-2010 or Virginia Tech, North End Center, Suite 2300 (0318), 300 Turner St. NW, Blacksburg, VA 24061.

If you are an individual with a disability and desire accommodation, please contact the hiring department or contact University ADA Services <http://oea.vt.edu/ada-accessibility-services.html> with any questions.