

Job Description **Post Doc**

Title: Postdoctoral Research Associate (Position Number: 00100149)

Working Title: Post Doc on the Ecology and Evolution of Ants in Cities, Backyards, and Houses

Work Location: Lab of Rob Dunn, David Clark Labs, Department of Biology, North Carolina State University

In potential collaboration with: Michelle Trautwein (Nature Research Center), Meg Lowman (Nature Research Center), Julie Horvath (Nature Research Center), Nick Haddad (Department of Biology), Nadia Singh (Department of Genetics), Brian Wiegmann (Department of Entomology), Steve Frank (Department of Entomology), Holly Menninger (Department of Biology), Andrea Lucky (Department of Entomology at the University of Florida), Nate Sanders (University of Tennessee) or others.

Essential Job Duties: One postdoctoral position will be available to work in the lab of Rob Dunn in the Department of Biology at North Carolina State University, in potential collaboration with other faculty (depending on the chosen candidate's interests). Funding will be for work that considers the ecology and evolution of ants. Ongoing work in the lab includes research on crickets, ants, beetles, fungi, bacteria and other taxa using large-scale experiments, genetics, genomics, citizen science, modeling approaches and natural history observations. Work in the lab also includes science writing and public outreach.

The candidate would work, in part, on the School of Ants (www.schoolofants.org) project (co-led by Dunn and by Dr. Andrea Lucky at the University of Florida). Preferred projects will be those that take advantage of the data and specimens being compiled at thousands of sites in North America and Europe as part of the School of Ants project and/or work in an array of experimental, open-top warming chambers in the Duke and Harvard Forests.

Both the lab and the department are actively growing and so there are many opportunities for ambitious projects. Projects could focus on individual taxa or community level questions, or focus on issues related to the interaction of ants and other species such as their symbionts and pathogens. Scope exists for projects to include genomics, genetics, experiments, natural history and science writing for the public. The most successful projects will be those that help us to understand the species we see everyday but about which we know relatively little, whether those species live in Raleigh, Manhattan or somewhere else in the world.

A short cover letter (with a very brief description of research interests and experience) and a separate proposal (<600 words) should both be included with the application. The candidate's statement and letters should emphasize the candidate's ability to finish

projects and the unique skills the candidate might bring to the lab (www.robduunlab.com).

FTE: 1.0

Length of appointment: Application process has opened (See: <https://jobs.ncsu.edu/postings/6697>). Applications will be accepted until a suitable candidate is found with an ideal start date in June/July 2012. Position appointment will last for one year from starting date, with possibility of renewal for additional years based on performance and funding.

Salary: \$36,000

Minimum Experience Education: Ph.D. (awarded by start date) in ecology, evolution, biology, entomology, microbiology, or related fields at the time of employment. The applicant's CV should indicate evidence of strong scholarship, including peer-reviewed publications in high-ranked journals and/or science writing for the public in high profile magazines and newspapers.

Preferred Experience, Skills, & Training:

Expertise in ecology and evolution and in addressing questions in a clear hypothesis-testing framework is desired. A background in genetics, history or literature is also of potential value, depending on the direction of the project. The applicant's CV should indicate evidence of strong scholarship, including peer-reviewed publications in high ranked journals and/or science writing for the public in high profile magazines and newspapers. The successful candidate must be able to interact with a diverse group of researchers and students and benefit from new and established intra- and inter-institution collaborations. The candidate should show strong evidence of the ability to finish projects.

Departmental Required Skills:

A valid driver's license is required. NC Driver's license required within 60 days of hire.

Application Procedure: This job has formally posted at the NCSU website <https://jobs.ncsu.edu/postings/6697>. Please submit a CV, cover letter, project proposal, names and email addresses of three references.

North Carolina State University is an Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action Employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, veteran status, or disability. In addition, NC State welcomes all persons without regard to sexual orientation. The University strongly encourages all qualified applicants to apply. Individuals with disabilities desiring accommodations in the application process should contact Rob Dunn rob_dunn@ncsu.edu.