Job Announcement
The Charles Darwin Foundation for the Galapagos Islands wishes to recruit an Assistant Taxonomist for the CDS Herbarium of the Natural History Collections.

Job type: Employment contract by line of business

Application deadline: December 2021

Start date: Negotiable

Duration: 12 months (Renewable)

Introduction

The mission of the Charles Darwin Foundation (CDF) and its Research Station (CDRS) is to provide knowledge and support through scientific research and complementary actions to ensure the conservation of the environment and biodiversity of the Galapagos Archipelago. To fulfill this purpose, the CDF seeks to incorporate Assistant Taxonomist for the CDS Herbarium of the Natural History Collections.

Profile required

- Bachelor or Master’s degree in Biology with a major in taxonomy and botany, and/or experience in knowledge of botanical taxonomy.
- Minimum 2 years of experience in handling specimens in natural history collections, preferably in botanical collections, and knowledge of curatorial techniques.
- Minimum 2 years of experience in handling equipment such as microscopes and stereoscopes, and for scientific photography, including micro and macro photography systems.
- Experience in the management of databases, information systems and botanical catalogues.
- Fluency in English and Spanish (both oral and written).
- Practical skills and technical field skills for specimen collection and vegetation studies.
- Knowledge of techniques and programs for scientific data analysis.
- Ability to use taxonomic keys and other resources for the identification of taxonomic groups (vascular and non-vascular plants).
- Experience in scientific writing and publications.
- Knowledge and experience working with the flora of the Galapagos Islands.
- Leadership and organizational skills, and experience supervising volunteers or students and coordinating activities.
- Ability to work in a dynamic environment that presents numerous opportunities, contingencies and challenges, and is characterized by limited logistical resources and geographic isolation.
Purpose of the position

The CDS Herbarium Assistant Taxonomist will be responsible for the management, curation and handling of the collections and the database (databoard) of the Charles Darwin Foundation CDS Herbarium. Together with the Chief Curator of the Herbarium, he/she/they will carry out all activities related to the curation of specimens, collection of new specimens for biodiversity conservation projects, taxonomic identification, reporting, scientific publications and will also be responsible for the implementation of the Action Plan for the conservation and preservation of all botanical collections. He/she/they will also be in charge of receiving local, national and international VIP visitors in situ.

Activities

1) Classification and identification of Galapagos vascular plants using taxonomic keys and Floras, collected by the assistant, or CDF scientists and collaborators, for inclusion in the CDS collection.
2) Entry of new specimens for the collection using the online database interface (DataBoard).
3) Mounting of botanical specimens, from all taxonomic groups of the botanical collection, for long-term preservation.
4) Scanning of specimens using HerbScan (specialized technology for digitizing herbarium specimens) and photographic and stereoscopic equipment for the digitalization of Natural History Collections, in addition to the use of programs such as Adobe Photoshop for file management. Maintenance of the photographic and image database of the Herbarium collections, both locally and remotely (web server).
5) Maintenance and curation of main collections (vascular plants), and auxiliary collections such as the Herbarium’s Carpotheque, Xylotheque and Palinotheque, using preventive methods for the long-term conservation of the collection.
6) Development of field trips and monitoring of flowering and fruiting of critically endangered species and seed dispersal to enrich the collection. This will be done with the support of visiting scientists and related taxonomic experts in the priority thematic areas and with the need to complement information.
7) Establishment and maintenance of contacts with expert botanical taxonomists from other herbaria around the world to promote and facilitate studies of taxonomic groups not well known to the CDS Herbarium, including research collaborations on the islands.
8) Elaboration of annual reports of the CDS collection necessary for the renewal of the annual operating patent.
9) Training and supervision of volunteers and students working in the collection, as well as ensuring compliance, together with staff, associated scientists, volunteers and/or scholarship holders, of the activities to be carried out in the collection, and of the norms and protocols established for the use of Natural History Collections.
10) Support to the chief curator in the elaboration of research proposals for the search of funds necessary for the maintenance and preservation of the botanical collection, and in the analysis and evaluation of research proposals in the area of botany, upon request by the Directorate of the Galapagos National Park (GNPD).
11) Elaboration, together with the chief curator and associated scientists, of scientific publications related to the collection and from the herbarium collection.
12) Coordination and assistance of scientists, donors and local or international VIP groups visiting the Herbarium Collection.
13) Integrated preventive management of pests that could affect the Herbarium Collection, which includes annual preventive curing, trapping, monitoring and identification, and in case of the presence of pests, their treatment and control.

14) Support the chief Herbarium curator in the evaluation and IUCN status of endemic, mainly emblematic species within the red list system.

15) Work with the chief curator to develop an Action Plan for the Conservation of the Collections, including defining key species for research.

Employee Conditions

The CDS Herbarium assistant taxonomist will be a full-time staff of CDF and will be based at the Charles Darwin Research Station (CDRS) on Santa Cruz Island in the Galapagos Islands, Ecuador.

The CDS Herbarium assistant taxonomist will work according to the regulations and Manual of Procedures of the CDF, and will complete their field work strictly following the rules and regulations of the Galapagos National Park Directorate (GNPD).

The benefits will be negotiated according to the profile of the candidate including private health insurance and 30 calendar days of (annual) paid leave.

How to apply

Those interested in this position should send the following information via e-mail to (pro.seleccion@fcdarwin.org.ec / patricia.jaramillo@fcdarwin.org.ec):

- Updated resume (CV).
- Letter of interest, describing your competencies according to the requirements for this position.
- Three professional letters of recommendation, including names and email addresses of references from previous work or experience.
- Names and email addresses of two references who can provide a personal recommendation of the candidate.

We kindly ask you to send all necessary documents in a single PDF file. If you need additional information, please contact us at the same e-mail address/es.