

## Announcement Volunteer for the Herbarium (CDS)

**Application Deadline:** Until filling the vacancy

**Starting date:** From January 2019

**Duration:** Initially for a 3-month period with the possibility of extending the placement upon review

The Plant Collection (CDS) is one of the four Natural History Collections at the Charles Darwin Research Station (CDRS). The primary function of the Collection is to preserve the type specimens, that is to say those that are used for the description of a new species. The species and the information that the Herbarium contains are fundamental for research projects that:

1. Contribute to the knowledge of the baseline of biodiversity
2. Work with priority species for conservation and
3. Generate information about ecological interactions, principally pertaining to introduced species.

The Herbarium (CDS) preserves more than 44,500 specimens and it consists of a biodiversity library of the flora of the Galapagos archipelago and a growing bank of taxonomic information. Within this botanical collection, vascular plants are the most numerous, but non-vascular plants are also preserved, such as fungi, bryophytes, lichens and mosses. We have three auxiliary collections: The Pollen-Collection, which contains hundreds of microscopic preparations of pollen grains, the Carpotheque, which consists of a fruit collection and the Xylotheque, which contains a specialized collection of wood.

Our Pollen-Collection and Xylotheque are the unique scientific collections in the Galapagos Archipelago and Ecuador.

### Opportunity

The Herbarium offers the possibility to work with specimens that are unique across the world. For this, we are looking for individuals with knowledge of Botany - principally in plant Taxonomy – and a high level of interest in the research and conservation efforts in the Galapagos islands. This is a unique opportunity for anyone who wants to know first-hand, the important scientific work we do here for the conservation of Galapagos Archipelago

### Required Profile

- Applicants must have a great and demonstrable scientific interest in Botany.
- Bachelors or Masters in Biology or Botany (or in a closely related field).
- Knowledge of plant taxonomy and confident use of plant taxonomic keys.
- Previous experience in working with plants and natural history collections are highly preferred.
- Experience in photography, knowledge of the R and GIS programs and confident use of Adobe Illustrator and Photoshop, are advantageous.

- The selected individual will be highly motivated with excellent interpersonal skills. Confident use of the English and Spanish languages are preferred.
- Pro-active, able to integrate in a multi-disciplinary team.
- Confidence in presentational skills. The selected individual is expected to present to audiences of local people, scientists and visitors.
- Individuals are encouraged to carry on their own independent research within the project.

### Responsibilities

- Provide technical support with the curating activities carried out in the Herbarium.
- Participate in field-trips in populated and remote islands.
- Contribute to the Digitalization of our botanical specimens using programs such as: HerbScan, Zoomify, Adobe Illustrator and Photoshop.
- Assist in the maintenance of our auxiliary collections, Pollen collection, Carpotheque y Xylotheque.
- Support the quarantine process at the Herbarium to prevent any potential entry of pests.
- Contribute to the analysis of the geographical and taxonomic data of the Herbarium plants.
- Assist in the preparation of scientific-academic publications and outreach material for visitors and the local community.
- Contribute to the maintenance and updating of the Herbarium database.
- Support any other activity within the Natural History Collections of the CDF, when it is deemed necessary.

### Conditions

The volunteer of the CDS reports directly to the Management of the Natural History Collections (CDF). The selected candidate will be based in the CDS in the island of Santa Cruz, Galapagos, Ecuador. Volunteering with the CDF does not imply a continuing relationship with the volunteer beyond the expected duration of the mission.

The volunteer is expected to work a minimum of 40 hours per week, from 7:30-12:00 and 13:30-17:00. The working schedule can change according to the project activities. Vacation and/or additional time away from the station may be requested in advance by the volunteer but will be subject to the approval of the project coordinator

The CDF will negotiate the entry permits to Ecuador, but the volunteer is expected to cooperate in their country of residence with the appropriate Ecuadorian embassy that grants the visa. The CDF will not process a visa beyond the duration planned for the volunteering mission.

### How to apply

Applicants are asked to send all documents in one single PDF-file, which includes the CDF application forms and the required documents. Please send the application to the following e-mail address:

[vol@fcdarwin.org.ec](mailto:vol@fcdarwin.org.ec).

The application forms are available on our website at [www.darwinfoundation.org](http://www.darwinfoundation.org) : Get Involved > Vacancies > Volunteers. If you have any questions, please contact the Volunteers and Scholars Program or request the application form at: [vol@fcdarwin.org.ec](mailto:vol@fcdarwin.org.ec). We are looking forward to your application!