Announcement
Volunteer for the Herbarium (CDS)

Application Deadline: Until the vacancy is filled

Starting date: As soon as possible

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, making it the largest collection in the world of specimens from the Galápagos archipelago. It consists of a biodiversity library of the flora of the Galápagos 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, mosses and algae. We have three auxiliary collections: The pollen collection, which contains hundreds of microscopic preparations of pollen grains, the seed collection and a specialized collection of wood. These are 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 is highly preferred.
- Experience in photography, knowledge of the R and GIS programs and confident use of Adobe Illustrator, MS Office, Photoshop and use of databases are advantageous.
- The selected individual will be highly motivated with excellent interpersonal skills. Confident use of English and Spanish languages is preferred.
- Pro-active and able to work independently.
- 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 include:
- Provide technical support with the curating activities carried out in the Herbarium.
- Assist in the maintenance of our main and auxiliary collections, pollen, seed and wood collections
- Contribute to the Digitalization of our herbarium specimens using programs such as: HerbScan, Zoomify, Adobe Illustrator and Photoshop.
- Help maintain and expand the photographic seed database and its catalog
- Contribute to the maintenance and updating of the Herbarium database.
- Participate in field-trips in populated and remote islands.
- 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.
- Support any other activity within the Natural History Collections of the CDF, when 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 7:45-12:30 and 14:00-17:15. 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: patricia.jaramillo@fcdarwin.org.ec, vol@fcdarwin.org.ec.

The application forms are available on our website at www.darwinfoundation.org: Vacancies > Volunteers. If you have any questions, please contact the Volunteers and Scholars Program or request the application form at: patricia.jaramillo@fcdarwin.org.ec, vol@fcdarwin.org.ec. We are looking forward to receiving your application!