

Announcement

Volunteer position for the Terrestrial Invertebrates Collection

Application deadline: Until filling the vacancy

Starting time: September 15th, 2019

Duration: Initially for a period of 3 months with the possibility of extending the placement for an additional 3 months upon review.

The Terrestrial Invertebrates Collection Charles Darwin Research Station (ICCDRS) forms part of the 4 Natural History Collections at the Charles Darwin Foundation (CDF). The main role of the collections is to preserve type specimens (those used on the description of a new species). The specimens and the information preserved at the collections are pivotal for research projects contributing to the knowledge of the baseline of biodiversity, working with priority species for conservation in Galapagos and, generating information on ecological interactions, primarily on introduced species.

The ICCDRS houses more than 34,000 specimens and is the greatest repository of terrestrial invertebrates from Galapagos in the world. The ICCDRS data make possible taxonomical studies that lead to the discovery of new species and new records for Galapagos. The specimens at the didactical section are a powerful tool in terms of outreach and environmental education. The historical records of the ICCDRS are basic to know the spatial distribution of species across the time, as a result we can better understand the natural history of the endemic species of terrestrial invertebrates in Galapagos.

Thanks to the support of scientific collaborators from international, national and local institutions, currently we are developing several activities focus on the preservation and cataloguing of the specimens. The main goal of all these activities, is provide information about native-endemic and introduced- invasive species to contribution for the conservation of the Galapagos Archipelago

Opportunity

The Terrestrial Invertebrates Collection is offering the possibility to work with some of the most scientifically valued and unique museum specimens in the world. We are looking for individuals with knowledge in Terrestrial invertebrates from Galapagos, with interest in the research and conservation of the islands.

This is a great opportunity to have a first-hand experience with the work carried out at the Charles Darwin Foundation on the behalf of the conservation of the Galapagos Islands.

Required profile

- Applicants should have a strong interest in any group of Terrestrial Invertebrates.
- Bachelor degree or postgraduate degree in Biology, Environmental Sciences (or closely related fields).
- Previous experience working with invertebrates and/or natural history collections is desirable.

- Experience in photography, computational skills in R, GIS software and proficiency working with Adobe Illustrator and Photoshop are an advantage.
- Highly motivated person with excellent interpersonal skills and proficiency in English and Spanish are preferable.
- Ability to work in a multicultural and multilingual team is an advantage.
- Confidence in presentational skills to local or visiting audiences.
- Independently developing research within the framework of the project is encouraged.

Responsibilities

- Contribute to the data analysis of specimens, including biogeographical analysis.
- Assist on the preparation of scientific publications and outreach material for local community and visitors.
- Technical support on the curation activities at the ICCDRS and, if required, assistance in field trips to collect specimens.
- Maintenance and monitoring of the specific climatic conditions required of the collections.
- Maintenance and update of the ICCDRS database.
- Support in the composition and presentation of information to local or visiting audiences.
- Support any other activities of the Natural History Collections, in case of being required.

Terms

The volunteer reports directly to the project coordinator and the project scientist. The successful candidate will be based at the Charles Darwin Foundation Research Station (CDRS) on Santa Cruz Island, Galapagos, Ecuador. A volunteer assignment with CDF does not imply a continuing relationship with the volunteer beyond the expected duration of the assignment.

The volunteer is expected to work a minimum of 40 hours per week, from 7:45 - 12:30 and 14:00 – 17:15. Due to project activities, such as fieldtrips, this schedule may change. Vacation and/or additional time away from the ICCDFRS may be requested in advance by the volunteer but will be subject to the approval of the Principal Curator.

The CDF will negotiate the entry permits to Ecuador, but will require the cooperation of the volunteer in their country of residence for coordination with the appropriate Ecuadorian Embassy that grants the visa. CDF will not process a visa in excess of the expected duration of the assignment.

How to apply?

For additional information and those interested in this position should send their application form and attachments by e-mail to the following address vol@fcdarwin.org.ec.

Please refer to this page for information about other requirements and application instructions: www.darwinfoundation.org.ec