Job Announcement: Post-Doctoral Associate: The Department of Entomology at the University of Maryland invites applications for a Post-Doctoral Associate in Community Ecology and Plant/Insect interactions. The postdoc will work with Dr. Karin Burghardt to analyze data and develop their own questions within one or two (of several possible) projects with theoretical and applied foci:

1. Role of neighboring tree diversity and plant traits in determining insect herbivore and natural enemy communities within the BiodiversiTREE experiment at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC).
2. Simultaneous impact of yard management practices on ecosystem processes and herbivore/beneficial insect communities.

The interdisciplinary and collaborative nature of these projects will provide opportunities for the postdoc to work with a team of collaborators at the Smithsonian and UMD Extension, among others. This is a very flexible position with room for the postdoc to develop their own questions and proposals while also utilizing longer term datasets generated by the lab. Primary responsibilities: Analysis of existing datasets, authorship of peer-reviewed articles, communication of findings at professional meetings, development of grant proposals, and management of existing research projects. Data will be available to the postdoc to develop their own analyses for publication in peer-reviewed scientific journals consistent with lab goals. Dr. Burghardt will create with the incumbent an individualized postdoctoral mentoring plan with a strong focus on the professional development and career goals of the post-doc.

Qualifications: Candidates must have a Ph.D. by the time of appointment in biology, ecology, environmental science, microbiology, plant sciences, entomology, or related field, experience and expertise with ecological models and statistical analyses using R, and excellent written and verbal communication skills, and the ability to acquire a valid MD driver’s license. Preferred candidates additionally will have some of the following strengths: experience with structural equation modeling, multivariate approaches, and/or multi-level models; experience with diverse arthropod taxa (especially caterpillars, hemipterans, or natural enemies); experience with plant/insect husbandry, work in diversity experiments and/or forest experiments, demonstrated commitment to reproducible and open science; prior success in working with teams and an interest in mentoring students; experience and interest in outreach/extension, and a strong track record of peer-reviewed publication.

Position Details: This position is based at the College Park campus of the University of Maryland and includes competitive salary (minimum $47,476/yr) and health benefits. This is a full-time, 12-month, 1-yr position with an ideal (but flexible) start date of Jan/Feb 2020. Reappointment is available for up to 3 years, conditional on satisfactory performance and the availability of funds. Application Details: Review will begin immediately and the position will remain open until a suitable candidate is identified. All applications received on or before 10 Dec. 2019 will be guaranteed consideration. The application should include: (i) a cover letter with the applicant’s interest, experience, and preferred start date. (ii) a CV (iii) contact information for 3 references and (iv) pdfs of 1-2 representative publications. It should consist of a single, combined pdf titled, “lastname_pda2020.pdf” and be emailed to kburghar@umd.edu.

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