

Assistant Specialist in Entomology/Ecology of social insects

The Department of Entomology at the University of California invites applicants for a part-time Assistant Specialist in Entomology/Ecology of social insects to conduct applied research for the Millar research group. The purpose of this position is to provide scientific and technical support for projects related to the chemical and behavioral ecology of social insects, including but not restricted to stinging wasps, hornets, ants, and bees. The successful candidate will have laboratory and field experience and expertise in biology, life history, ecology, behavior, and management of social insects, with a focus on flying stinging insects such as wasps, bees, and hornets.

Required qualifications at the time of application for this position include:

1. 4 years of practical experience working with stinging insects
2. Experience locating the nests of a variety of species in natural and urban environments, including the nests of (a) yellowjacket wasps, (b) honey bees, (c) avian predators of bees and wasps (e.g. kingbirds or Black Phoebes), and (d) avian competitors of bees and wasps (e.g. hummingbirds)
3. Experience with insect colony monitoring and conducting survival analyses
4. Experience with rearing/maintaining social insects in laboratory colonies
5. Good plant identification skills and extensive experience with collecting foraging social insects from flowering plants
6. Extensive experience collecting and preparing insect specimens for a variety of downstream analyses, including but not limited to museum curation and DNA analysis.
7. Extensive experience collecting, collating and managing observational datasets
8. Physically capable of arduous physical work required for field work under southern California climatic conditions, including digging up nests of stinging insects, setting up field bioassays at remote field sites, and conducting plant and insect surveys and collecting over transects of several miles in rugged terrain
9. Trained in the use of Epipens, or analogous medical devices for treating anaphalactic shock or related medical issues brought on by being stung by stinging insects

An additional qualification that is required at the time of hire is a master's degree in Entomology or a related field of biological science

Preferred qualifications for this position include:

1. Experience identifying a diversity of wasps, bees, and related social insects in the field
2. Experience posting observations to community science platforms such as iNaturalist and eBird, and experience downloading and analysing species distribution data from these platforms
3. Knowledge of California native plants
4. Experience writing scientific papers and presenting at scientific conferences
5. Macrophotography skills
6. Holding permits or being a subpermittee on banding permits for hummingbirds or avian predators of bees and wasps, or good familiarity with the permit application process and requirements

Advancement through the Specialist ranks at the University of California is through a series of structured, merit-based evaluations, occurring every 2-3 years, each of which includes substantial peer input.

To apply: submit your Curriculum Vitae, a Statement of Past and/or Planned Future Contributions to Advancing Diversity and Inclusive Excellence and contact information for three references to <https://aprecruit.ucr.edu/apply/JPF01408>. Review of applications will commence on June 30, 2021 and proceed until position is filled. For full consideration, applicants should submit their complete applications prior to the above date.

For more information about this position, please contact Dr. Jocelyn Millar, Chair of the Search Committee, Department of Entomology, at jocelyn.millar@ucr.edu. For questions on application procedures and requirements, please contact Ms. Kendall Dunmore, Academic Personnel, at kendall.dunmore@ucr.edu.

UCR is a world-class research university with an exceptionally diverse undergraduate student body. Its mission is explicitly linked to providing routes to educational success for underrepresented and first-generation college students. A commitment to this mission is a preferred qualification.

The University of California is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, age, disability, protected veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by law.