

## **Open Positions in Ant Organismal and Evolutionary Biology**

The Ant Symbiosis Laboratory at the University of Texas at Tyler is seeking a laboratory manager and graduate students (MS level) to work on NSF-funded projects on the organismal and evolutionary biology of ants.

### **Ongoing project include but are not limited to:**

- Ant-fungal-bacterial interactions of North American *Trachymyrmex* ants
- Ecology of Ant-Soil Interactions
- Thermal Ecology of North American *Trachymyrmex* ants
- Population Ecology of the Threatened Comanche Harvester Ant, *Pogonomyrmex comanche*

### **\* Laboratory Manager Position in Symbiosis Research\***

**Responsibilities:** oversee laboratory operations; assist with experiments, data collection, data management, collection of colonies from nearby and remote field sites and maintenance of colonies in the laboratory. This is a full-time benefits-eligible position. Salary would be commensurate with experience.

**Qualifications:** BS or MS in biology, entomology or related field, preferably with experience and/or interest in one or more of the following: ants, field and lab bench work, molecular and microbial ecology, mycology, experimentation and/or bioinformatics.

**Start Date:** No earlier than 15 August 2019 but negotiable. Appointment would be for one year initially, which may be renewed depending performance, interest and funding.

**Application Deadline:** Please send letter of interest, names of 2-3 individuals who could write a letter of reference and CV to Jon Seal, University of Texas at Tyler ([jseal@uttyler.edu](mailto:jseal@uttyler.edu)) by May 15, 2019.

### **\*MS Positions in Symbiosis Research\***

**Research focus:** 1-2 highly motivated graduate students (MS-level) are sought to conduct research on the biology of ants and their symbionts. We employ a variety of methods including descriptive and experimental approaches, along with biochemical, physiological, bioinformatics, molecular and microbial techniques. Projects could range from phylogeography/population genetics to functional ecology and experimental studies.

There is considerable flexibility for projects within this broad theme. Student projects are tailored to interest and career objectives.

Preferred applicants will have earned a Bachelor's degree and exhibit equal enthusiasm for field-based work, experimentation, molecular ecology and bioinformatics.

**Support:** Graduate Students will be supported by a combination of Research and Teaching Assistantships. Tuition remission scholarships are available on a competitive basis. Accepted students can expect support for two years. Teaching assistants in our program typically teach introductory biology or upper division laboratory courses (e.g., cell biology, ecology or entomology).

**Qualifications:** Bachelor's degree and qualifying GPA and GRE scores. It is useful to have prior research experience, but not necessary. Most important is identifying your own research interests that are consistent with the ongoing research in our lab. Further information regarding our graduate program and admission requirements can be found at <http://www.uttyler.edu/biology/graduate/master-science-degree.php>

**Start Date:** Flexible but must coincide with academic calendar: January 2020 (Winter semester), May (2019) (Summer term) or Fall 2019 (fall semester).

**Application deadline:** March 15th, 2019; but applications will be reviewed as they arrive. Final decisions must be made by April 15, 2019

Application materials: Please send a brief cover letter, resume, transcripts, GRE scores, and contact information for two references to [jseal@uttyler.edu](mailto:jseal@uttyler.edu) by the deadline to be considered for this position.

**About Tyler.** The Department of Biology at UT Tyler consists of thirteen full time research faculty. Departmental strengths include bioinformatics, microbial and molecular ecology, aquatic ecology, conservation biology, genomics and landscape ecology. Most research is focused on local systems that occur within a few hours' drive from Tyler.

Part of the University of Texas System, UT Tyler is located in northeastern Texas at the ecotone between two state and federally designated ecoregions, southeastern pine forests (the 'Piney Woods') and post oak savannas. As a result, the area contains a mixture of eastern, western and southern species. We have a number of field sites established nearby, including one on campus, and many others within driving distance in central and southeastern Texas. Additional field sites are in Florida and Arizona.

Tyler has around 100,000 residents and is among one of the fastest growing cities in Texas. UT Tyler is a relatively young university (founded in 1971). Tyler is developing an economy focused around higher education, health/biomedical fields and many locally owned businesses, which

now includes two microbreweries, coffee shops and assorted foodie-type establishments. Tyler has a regional airport, and is approximately a 90 minute drive to either Dallas, Texas or Shreveport, Louisiana. Amtrak stations are found in nearby Mineola or Longview with daily trains to Chicago or San Antonio.

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