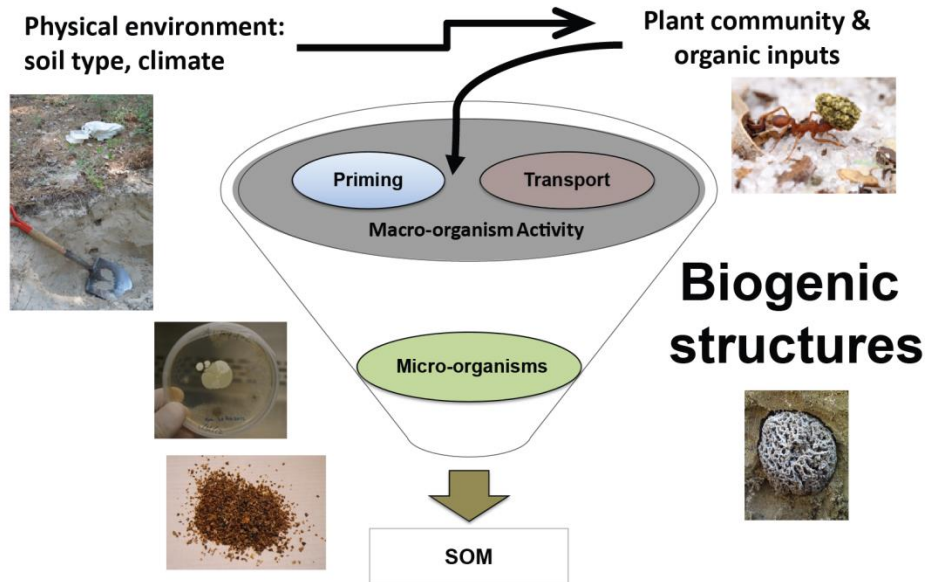


OPEN POSITIONS IN SOIL ECOLOGY/ENTOMOLOGY /POPULATION GENETICS

As part of a recently NSF-funded project examining feedbacks between social insect nests, soil microbiomes and soil organic carbon at local and regional scales, we are seeking 1) a postdoctoral scholar and 2) a senior lab technician/lab manager. The successful candidates will be part of a collaborative team with members from the University of Central Florida, the University of Texas at Tyler and Yale University.

NSF Ecosystem Science cluster award abstracts supporting this project can be viewed here:

- https://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/showAward?AWD_ID=2230333&HistoricalAwards=false
- https://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/showAward?AWD_ID=2230334&HistoricalAwards=false
- https://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/showAward?AWD_ID=2230335&HistoricalAwards=false



Graphical abstract of our project that depicts how the interactions between ant nests (biogenic structures) and soil microorganisms influence soil organic matter (SOM). The proposed research will examine the effects of experimental removal/addition of macroorganisms (social insects) on microorganism abundance and SOM. Photo J. Seal, W. Tschinkel and Alex Wild.

The postdoctoral scholar position is available in the laboratory of Dr. Joshua King and will be based at the University of Central Florida (<https://sciences.ucf.edu/biology/person/joshua-king/>). This position comes with 3 years of funding (salary, benefits, annual raises) with the possibility of a 4th year depending upon annual reviews. The postdoctoral scholar can expect opportunities and support to work with all the team members and labs involved in this project, a formal mentoring plan, a starting salary of \$55,000, numerous opportunities for publishing, professional development, skill development, and networking.

Responsibilities:

Primary responsibilities of the postdoctoral scholar will include:

- Executing field surveys and experiments.
- Collecting, organizing, sharing, analyzing, and visualizing data.
- Working collaboratively with the research team to publish and disseminate results.

Minimum Qualifications:

PhD in soil biology, soil ecology, entomology, ecology, or a related field. Experience working with soil macrofauna or social insects and/or conducting field experiments. Demonstrated research productivity (publications, presentations), data management, statistical analyses, and data visualization is expected.

Preferred Qualifications:

Experience with GIS, and experience with laboratory techniques such as generating and analyzing genetic and/or genomic datasets and associated bioinformatics, soil carbon fraction analytical techniques, and/or social insect husbandry are preferred but not required. Ability to work in rigorous field conditions (seasonally hot, humid weather) is expected.

Application Materials:

UCF requires all applications and supporting documents to be submitted electronically through the Human Resources employment opportunities website, <https://www.ucf.edu/jobs/>. In addition to the online application, candidates should upload:

- Cover Letter describing your relevant experience, research interests, and career goals.
- Current CV/Resume
- List of contact information of three references.

Note: When applying, please have all your documents ready to upload at the same time. Once the online submission process is finalized, the system does not allow applicants to submit additional documents later.

Inquiries and questions prior to applying are welcome and potential candidates are also welcome to include Dr. Jon Seal (jseal@uttyler.edu) and Dr. Mark Bradford (mark.bradford.yale@gmail.com) on any inquiry emails.

The Senior Lab Technician will be based at the University of Texas at Tyler and in the molecular ecology laboratory of Dr. Jon Seal and Dr. Katrin Kellner (<http://www.antsymbiosis.com/>). The candidate will also interact with Dr Matthew Greenwold who leads a bioinformatics and genomics laboratory at UT Tyler. The position comes with an annual starting salary of \$36,000 and full time benefits. There will be a maximum of four years of funding, depending on annual reviews. In addition to the core project, the candidate will also have the opportunity to interact with other ongoing research projects that examine ant-fungal-bacterial interactions in North American *Trachymyrmex* ants, projects currently funded by NSF ((IOS-1552822). Other ongoing projects include thermal ecology of North American *Trachymyrmex* ants and population and microbial ecology of the threatened Comanche Harvester ant, *Pogonomyrmex comanche*. It is anticipated that this position would mostly benefit individuals with a BS or MS and who are considering to eventually pursue a PhD in the Biological Sciences or a related field. There will be plenty of opportunities for publishing, professional development and networking.

Major Responsibilities. The lab technician will oversee laboratory operations, along with the PIs, assist with field experiments, data collection and data management, the collection of ant colonies from field

sites and the maintenance of colonies in the laboratory. Highly desirable skills would be some familiarity with population genetics and bioinformatics, among other wet lab techniques. The candidate will be expected to work in rigorous field conditions (seasonally, hot and humid weather) and spend time in remote field locations (northern Florida) with other team members from UT Tyler and the collaborating institutions.

Qualifications: BS or MS in biology, entomology or related field, preferably with experience and/or interest in insects, molecular and microbial ecology, microbiology, mycology, experimentation and bioinformatics.

Start Date: Preferably early January 2024 but negotiable. Appointment would be for one year initially, which may be annually renewed for up to three additional years.

Application Deadline: Please send letter of interest and CV to Jon Seal and Katrin Kellner, University of Texas at Tyler (jseal@uttyler.edu and kkellner@uttyler.edu) by October 1, 2024.

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 and many others within driving distance in central and southeastern Texas, in addition to our main study sites in Florida. The Ant Symbiosis group also periodically studies species found in west Texas and southern Arizona.

Tyler has a regional airport and Amtrak stations are located nearby in Mineola and Longview. Tyler is approximately a 90 minute drive to either Dallas, Texas or Shreveport, Louisiana.

Inquiries and questions prior to applying are welcome and potential candidates are also welcome to include Dr. Joshua King (Joshua.King@ucf.edu) and Dr. Mark Bradford (mark.bradford.yale@gmail.com) on any inquiry emails.