

THE INSTITUTO DE ECOLOGIA A.C. (INECOL) SEEKS TWO PLANT SYSTEMATISTS

INECOL forms part of the Mexican National Council of Science and Technology (CONACyT) and is a public research center which conducts studies and provides graduate education in the fields of ecology, biodiversity and systematics, conservation, and natural resource management. It has research facilities in Xalapa, Veracruz and Pátzcuaro, Michoacán, as well as field stations in temperate and arid regions of Durango and along the tropical coast of Veracruz. At present it employs 103 full-time researchers, 95 academic technicians, and 88 administrators. The graduate program consists of 134 students. The center is organized into 9 departments: Biodiversity and Systematics, Functional Ecology, Environment and Sustainability, Evolutionary Biology, Biorational Pest and Vector Control, Biotechnological Resource Management, Ecoethology, Vertebrate Biology and Conservation, and Multitrophic Interactions. INECOL invites interested researchers to fill two positions (described in detail below).

Category Available: Full Researcher, level “A”

Contract information: Fulltime for 12 months. Contingent upon satisfactory performance, the contract can be renewed annually. After three years the researcher can request tenure.

Research Description: The successful candidate will join the Department of Biodiversity and Systematics and be incorporated into the Regional Center of the Bajío, located in Pátzcuaro, Michoacán. The principal project of this Center is the Flora del Bajío y de Regiones Adyacentes, a detailed floristic inventory of the vascular plants occurring in the states of Guanajuato, Querétaro and northern Michoacán. The hiree will collaborate with a group of four researchers and five academic technicians involved in this project and should possess broad knowledge of vascular plant taxonomy, diversity, and morphology, as well as collecting and determination procedures.

The position also requires knowledge in the use of phylogenetic methods, and it is necessary to possess hands on experience with laboratory techniques necessary for the compilation of molecular data, as well as methods for their analysis, employing both parsimony and likelihood. Preference will be given to candidates who have a background working with the flora of Mexico, although such experience is not strictly required.

Responsibilities:

- Participate in fieldwork and the collection of specimens for the herbarium IEB and its exchange program.
- Collaborate in the project “Flora del Bajío y de Regiones Adyacentes,” including the preparation of fascicles and the coordination of treatments prepared by outside specialists.

- Conduct long-term molecular and traditional systematic research on one or more groups of vascular plants.
- Assist in the equipping, development, and management of a molecular systematics laboratory.
- Impart graduate courses and supervise theses in the Master's and Doctoral programs of INECOL.
- Publish articles in internationally recognized journals with an impact factor, as well as in national scientific journals and occasionally chapters in books.
- Submit proposals for research funding from public and private institutions, within Mexico and abroad.

Requirements:

- Undergraduate degree in biology or ecology and a PhD in systematic botany or its equivalent.
- Postdoctoral experience.
- Authorship of 5-7 scientific publications in high quality international journals with impact factor in field of expertise with at least three as first or corresponding author, having published at least three of these during the last three years.
- Experience in the collection of botanical specimens.
- Preparation of taxonomic revisions and floristic treatments of vascular plants.
- Completion of a molecular systematic research project on a group of vascular plants.
- Knowledge in the use of phylogenetic methods, employing both parsimony and likelihood.
- Hands on experience with laboratory techniques necessary for the compilation of molecular data.
- It is desirable but not indispensable to have lived and worked in Latin America.
- Ability to speak and write properly in both Spanish and English.
- Capacity to work in a team and simultaneously conduct different tasks, as well as the ability to negotiate and efficiently attend to unanticipated circumstances.
- Successful experience in funding research projects.
- Willingness to travel and work outside of normal business hours.

- Possession of a driver's license (recommended).

Application procedure:

Interested individuals should send a letter describing research goals and previous experience in plant systematics, a curriculum vitae, and contact information for three references (including telephone numbers and email addresses). References will be contacted only for the finalists. All information should be provided in Spanish. Review of applications will begin with the publication of the search and continue until 31 July 2011. The selected individuals should be willing to begin by 1 October 2011. Please send all documents via electronic mail as PDF or Word files to:

Secretaría Académica

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