Departmental Overview

The Kremen Lab at the University of California Berkeley is offering three internship positions beginning on April 10, 2014 and ending approximately on August 15, 2014. Successful applicants will be based out of Davis, CA with fieldwork located throughout Yolo County. Housing will not be provided.

Claire Kremen is the director for the Berkeley Center for Diversified Farming Systems, a program motivated by a desire to understand how agriculture designed according to whole systems and agroecological principles can contribute to creating a more sustainable, socially just, and secure global food system. Our current research focuses on how hedgerows on the margins of farmland contribute to pollinator conservation by influencing population persistence and to pollination services by influencing the functional diversity of the pollinator community. This research will also contribute to scientific management plans for restoring an ecosystem function, pollination, while also providing important insights in the fields of population and community ecology and conservation biology. This is a summer position to assist with fieldwork and laboratory processing of field-collected insect specimens.

Responsibilities

The candidates selected for these positions will have the opportunity to participate in all aspects of both the field and laboratory components of this project. Under the supervision of a senior biologist, the intern will assist with field insect collections at designated field sites adjacent to agricultural crops in Yolo County, CA.

The successful candidate will help with all aspects of fieldwork including pan trapping bees, aerial netting bees, vegetation assessments, pest and natural enemy collection. In addition the assistant, will learn to process specimens on days when field collections are not being done. The assistant will be expected to be able to take direction, learn established protocol, work independently after initial training, have attention to detail, interest in biology, sustainable agriculture, pollination, and pest control, and be able to work in often harsh field conditions (hot, dry, little shade). The assistant is essential for our successful summer data collection.

Key Responsibilities:
• Field monitoring and collection of pollinators, pests, and natural enemy insects
• Processing insect specimens in the lab including separating insects and vegetation from sweep samples, pinning bees, labeling samples
• Data entry into excel spreadsheets
• Periodic monitoring of trap nesting surveys or other miscellaneous pollination experiments

Required Qualifications

• Interest in botany, entomology, conservation biology and field ecology
• Attention to detail (will be collecting and working with original data)
• Highly motivated and able to work independently
• Basic computer skills (Word, Excel)
• Ability to work in field under hot sunny conditions for long hours
• Valid Drivers License
Preferred Qualifications

• Bachelors degree in relevant field
• Previous experience with pollinators, especially native bees and/or monitoring other insect populations
• An interest in, or experience with, habitat restoration
• Previous field or lab experience or coursework related to botany and/or entomology
• Previous field experience in California

Salary & Benefits

Step 1 / $2,451.00 monthly
For information on the comprehensive benefits package offered by the University visit:

http://atyourservice.ucop.edu/forms_pubs/misc/benefits_of_belonging.pdf

How to Apply

Please submit your cover letter and resume as a single attachment when applying.

Driving Required

A valid driver’s license and DMV check for driving record is required.

Other Information

The position is located off campus in Davis, CA.

This position has multiple vacancies that will remain open until filled.

Equal Employment Opportunity

The University of California, Berkeley is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

Pest control/Monterey: To apply for this position, go to jobs.berkeley.edu - click on "External Applicants" and search for job number #17306

Departmental Overview

The Kremen Lab at the University of California Berkeley is seeking one internship position beginning March 1, 2014 and ending approximately May 31, 2014, with possible extension until August 15, 2014. The position will be based in the Salinas and Pajaro Valleys of California, in San Benito and Monterey Counties. Housing will not be provided.

Claire Kremen is the director for the Berkeley Center for Diversified Farming Systems, a program motivated by a desire to understand how agriculture designed according to whole systems and agroecological principles can contribute to creating a more sustainable, socially just, and secure global food system. This project seeks a motivated field assistant to participate in a large collaborative ecological research program between UC Berkeley, Stanford University, and UC Davis geared towards facilitating a transition towards a sustainable food system that conserves life-support systems, and secures safe food and water and healthy rural livelihoods.

In 2006, an E. Coli outbreak in fresh spinach was traced to the Salinas Valley. Concerns that wildlife brought the disease onto farms caused growers to dramatically alter their farming practices and resulted in the removal of 13% of the riparian habitat in the Salinas Valley. The work seeks to determine the unintended ecological consequences of removing riparian habitat. For example, many predators of damaging crop pests rely on natural habitat to complete their lifecycles. Natural habitat removal may thus threaten these insect predators and cause increasingly severe pest outbreaks.
Responsibilities
The successful applicant will work alongside a postdoctoral mentor to conduct a large scale-field experiment in agricultural fields in the Salinas Valley, participating in all aspects of the field and laboratory components of this project. The primary objective of this field experiment will be to document the potential role of riparian habitat adjacent to crop fields in enhancing predators and preventing pest outbreaks. Training and direction will be provided by a postdoctoral fellow. The work necessitates that the assistant reside in or find temporary residence nearby (e.g. in Monterey, San Benito, or Santa Cruz counties).

Key Responsibilities:
• Conduct ecological field experiments. After training from postdoctoral mentor, work will include (1) constructing experimental materials, (2) insect collections and monitoring, and (3) administering predation experiments (e.g. placing and monitoring experimental exclusion cages).
• Labwork. After training from postdoctoral mentor, work include (1) insect rearing, (2) insect identification, and (3) insect storage and labeling.
• Data entry.

Required Qualifications
• Interest in ecology, entomology, and conservation biology.
• Bachelors degree in related field.
• Attention to detail, especially in data collection.
• Ability to work independently and for long hours in field conditions (which may be hot and sunny or cold and rainy).
• At least some basic field experience.
• Basic computer skills (e.g. Word, Excel).

Preferred Qualifications
• Previous field or lab experience in entomology (e.g. surveys, identification, etc.)
• Previous field experience in California or in agricultural conditions.

How to Apply
Please submit your cover letter and resume as a single attachment when applying.

The salary is Step 1 / $2451.00 monthly.

The position is located off campus in Monterey, CA

Driving Required
A valid driver’s license and DMV check for driving record is required.

Equal Employment Opportunity
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