

POSITION AVAILABLE IN LICHEN SYSTEMATICS AT FWBG|BRIT

Project: Plant and Lichen Discovery in the Southern Philippines

Opening date: August 25, 2022 | Closing date: September 22, 2022

WE ARE CURRENTLY RECRUITING:

- A Master of Science Student OR
- A Research/Herbarium Assistant OR
- A Postdoctoral Researcher

to work with LICHENS from the Southern Philippines!



Project description: The Philippines is home to over one thousand species of lichens. The natural biota of this biodiversity hotspot is critically threatened by habitat loss, yet its fungi and flora remain poorly known and many species await initial discovery and description. This multi-year project, funded by the United States National Science Foundation, aims to conduct several expeditions throughout the southern Philippines, i.e., Mindanao and the Visayas, to document this plant and lichen diversity. Vouchers of lichens, bryophytes, and vascular plants are being collected, digitized and made freely available on various online sites. DNA extractions are being made for most lichen collections, with the objective of creating integrative taxonomic and floristic accounts, and the occurrence and molecular data will be used to characterize patterns of species richness, endemism, and biogeography. In addition to publications, these data will also be used to inform and direct conservation priorities with local authorities and communities.

NSF Award Abstract:

https://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/showAward?AWD_ID=1754697&HistoricalAwards=false

Available position: One Master of Science (MSc) position is available at Texas Christian University ([TCU Graduate Program](#)) in partnership with the [Fort Worth Botanic Garden | Botanical Research Institute of Texas](#) (FWBG|BRIT). The MSc student enrolled at TCU/BRIT will be mentored by Drs. [Manuela Dal Forno](#) (FWBG|BRIT) and [John Horner](#) (TCU). We are also advertising this position for a Research/Herbarium Assistant or a Postdoctoral Researcher to work at [FWBG|BRIT](#) with Manuela Dal Forno as a full-time non-permanent position at this institution. Only one person will be selected from this post. The specifics of each position can be found below.

Requirements and details (for ALL): Ability to work independently as well as in collaboration, have excellent communication skills (including in social media), and be highly motivated. Additionally:

MSc Student: B.S. degree in Biology or very closely related discipline. Must meet minimum university requirements for [TCU admissions](#). Prior coursework in botany, plant systematics, molecular biology, evolution, or equivalent is strongly preferred. Proficiency in both written and spoken English is expected. Experience with fieldwork, participation in scientific investigations, and fluency in Filipino and/or Cebuano is preferred.

Research/Herbarium Assistant: B.S. or MSc degree in Biology or very closely related discipline. This position is designed as contracted to work 40-hours/week, but this is negotiable (minimum 20-hours/week), as well as a flexible schedule (hours and partly remote work). NOTE: Position open only for US Nationals or Permanent Residents. FWBG|BRIT is not a VISA-sponsoring institution, and therefore this position is only available for someone able to work legally in the United States.

Postdoctoral Researcher: PhD at time of hire in Biology, Botany, Ecology, Bioinformatics, or related fields. Prior experience working with lichens is strongly preferred. This position is designed as contracted to work 40-hours/week, and a flexible schedule (hours and partly remote work) is negotiable. If the selected candidate already has a topic or taxonomic group of preference, the project can be adjusted for including these interests; for example, phylogenomics/metagenomics/museomics, or ecological traits. NOTE: Position open only for US Nationals or Permanent Residents. FWBG|BRIT is not a VISA-sponsoring institution, and therefore this position is only available for someone able to work legally in the United States.

Overall expectations/duties (for ALL): Execute scientific research in conformity with the project description; identify and take photographs of lichen specimens; extract, amplify and sequence DNA; organize, gather, and analyze data (including label information and images); coordinate with other colleagues data to be deposited in the Lichen Portal; generate peer-reviewed publications and educational material (e.g., field guides, presentations); and fieldwork in the southern Philippines (optional). Additionally, for the **MSc Student**, a thesis defense within two years; completion of required graduate credits while maintaining at least a 3.0 grade point average. The student thesis topic will focus on integrative taxonomy of lichens (including systematics, chemistry, biogeography, morphology and anatomy).

Start Date: Fall 2023 for MSc Student; negotiable for Research/Herbarium Assistant and Postdoc (as soon as November 1, 2022).

Salary and length of appointment:

MSc Student: An annual stipend will provide two years of support sufficient to cover tuition for full-time enrollment at TCU, rent, food, textbooks, basic living expenses, visa fees, and one round-trip international flight to the Philippines.

Research/Herbarium Assistant: \$15–20/hour (depending on B.S. or MSc degrees, maximum 2 years)

Postdoctoral Researcher: \$48,000/year (plus \$4,000 for health insurance and moving expenses, 1 year)

If you are interested in applying (or have further inquiries), please **contact Manuela Dal Forno** (mdalforno@brit.org) with your **resume or curriculum vitae, and cover letter** (please state your interest for the position and overall experience, maximum of two pages). For the MSc position, an unofficial transcript of prior college-level coursework is also required.

To learn more about this project, please visit [NSF Project – Lichens of the Southern Philippines](#)

