Field technician positions with Anderson lab (UGA) at RMBL - ecological and evolutionary consequences of climate change on natural plant populations

Jill Anderson’s lab at the University of Georgia is searching for two field research assistants from June-August 2017.

We study the ecological and evolutionary consequences of climate change for natural plant populations. We focus on research on Drummond’s rockcress (Boechera stricta in the plant family Brassicaceae), a mustard plant native to the Rocky Mountains. Our studies take place around the Rocky Mountain Biological Lab (http://www.rmbl.org/), which is located in Gothic, Colorado near the wildflower capital of Colorado (Crested Butte). We quantify plant fitness and traits to ask whether climate change could disrupt long-standing patterns of local adaptation, and to test whether phenotypic plasticity will enable populations to persist in the short-term. We perform large-scale reciprocal transplant experiments to examine patterns of adaptive evolution and natural selection in contemporary landscapes. Since fall 2013, we have planted ~80,000 seeds and seedlings into five experimental gardens ranging in elevation from 2500 m to 3340 m (8202 feet to 11000 feet). Our summer research involves intensive monitoring of these experimental plants to record data on germination success, survival, growth, reproductive success, as well as life history and morphological traits. We conduct most of our work in the field, with a small proportion of indoor lab work.

The successful candidate will assist with ongoing field and laboratory studies for 8-10 weeks from June-August. The exact start and end dates are negotiable. We are offering $10/hour for a full time field assistant (40 hours/week) from June through August. We will cover housing costs and station fees at the Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory and reimburse travel expenses up to $400, but the field assistant would be responsible for her/his food costs. Fieldwork will involve hiking to experimental gardens through rough terrain (1-3 miles one-way daily).

The University of Georgia is committed to maintaining a fair and respectful environment for living, work, and study. To that end, all qualified applicants from individuals with a strong interest in evolutionary biology will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability status, or age. The application consists of a cover letter your qualifications, a CV/ résumé and contact information for two references, which should be submitted via email to Jill at jta24@uga.edu. Please include “application for field tech position” in the subject of your email.

Applications are due by March 27th, 2017.

Feel free to contact Jill if you have any questions about the position. Additional information about our work can be found at:
http://andersonlab.genetics.uga.edu/Home.html