Post-doc in Fragmented Ecological Networks at UConn

The Department of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology at the University of Connecticut invites applications for a postdoctoral research associate (PDRA) on an NSF-funded project investigating the impacts of fragmentation on ecological networks in temperate forest ecosystems in the northeastern United States. The project seeks to develop a mechanistic understanding of fragmentation-induced shifts in the structure of ecological networks involving herbivores (caterpillars), their host-plants, parasitoids and predators (birds and ants).

The PDRA will design, establish and conduct field experiments and surveys to test hypotheses for how bottom-up and top-down regulation of herbivorous Lepidoptera are modified in small forest fragments and the consequences for ecological network structure. Responsibilities will include leading field teams, rearing lepidopteran larvae in the lab and developing and implementing statistical analyses. The PDRA will be responsible for disseminating the research through articles in peer-reviewed scientific journals and presentations at academic conferences, and organizing public outreach events.

TO APPLY
Interested applicants should apply online using UConn Jobs at www.jobs.uconn.edu. Applications should include a letter of interest, a brief statement (1-2 pages) summarizing previous scientific work and experience, a curriculum vitae, and the names and addresses of three individuals able to evaluate the applicant’s qualifications for the position. It is preferred that applications are received by September 25, 2017.

Inquiries may be addressed to Robert Bagchi (robert.bagchi@uconn.edu).

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS
Ph.D. in biology or a closely related field, experience in designing and conducting field experiments and expertise in statistical analyses using R.

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS
Publications in population, community and/or landscape ecology. Familiarity with insect (primarily Lepidoptera) and plant identification and taxonomy. A strong background in ecological theory (e.g. ecological networks, meta-population and meta-community dynamics and island biogeography) would be advantageous.

APPOINTMENT TERMS
This position is for an expected duration of two years, depending upon funding and satisfactory performance. The position would ideally start on February 1, 2018, but the exact date is negotiable.