

Announcement

Professional Volunteer for the Herbarium (CDS)

Application Deadline: Until the vacancy is filled

Start Date: Immediately

Duration: Initially for a period of 3 months with the possibility of extension, subject to a performance review and project needs.

The Plant Collection (CDS) is part of the 4 Natural History Collections held by the Charles Darwin Research Station (CDRS). The specimens and information contained within the collection are essential for research projects that:

1. Contribute to understanding the baseline biodiversity,
2. Work with species prioritized for conservation,
3. Generate information on ecological interactions and species distribution in the archipelago.

The CDS Herbarium contains over 47,500 samples, making it the largest botanical repository of Galápagos Islands collections in the world. It consists of a main section of vascular plants, auxiliary collections (pollen, woods, fruits and seeds), and non-vascular plants, fungi, lichens, and algae. Specimens are collected on different islands of the archipelago by collaborating scientists, curators, technical assistants, thesis students, fellows, and volunteers and are used to generate science in Galápagos, to provide knowledge and support through scientific research and complementary actions, ensuring the conservation of the environment and biodiversity of the Galápagos Archipelago.

Required Profile

- Bachelor's degree in Biology/Botany or closely related field with experience in herbarium.
- Knowledge of plant taxonomy and the use of taxonomic keys.
- Experience in the identification of neotropical flora (knowledge of Galápagos flora is desirable).
- Experience in handling specimens from natural history collections, preferably in botanical-mycological collections, and knowledge of curatorial techniques.
- Experience in operating equipment such as scanners, microscopes, and stereoscopes.
- Computational skills in MS Office.
- Excellent interpersonal skills and proficiency in Spanish and English.
- Highly motivated, proactive, punctual individual who can work and organize independently. Capable of working in a team and with multicultural groups, under pressure and in field situations on remote islands.

Responsibilities

- Assist in the maintenance and curation of the main and auxiliary collections (pollen, seeds, fruits, and wood), as well as the collection of fungi and lichens.
- Contribute to the digitization of botanical samples using a scanner and image editing software.
- Contribute to the maintenance and updating of vascular plant specimens in the Herbarium database, using our online database and managing files in MS Excel.
- Support Herbarium preservation activities, including daily temperature and humidity recording in collections and maintaining control of these conditions.
- Assist in the comprehensive pest management process to prevent insect entry into the collection.
- Collaborate in conducting scientific research based on specimens and their associated data.
- Assist in field trips of Botany-related projects. This will be done with the support of visiting scientists and taxonomic experts in priority thematic areas requiring complementary information.
- Support any other activities of the FCD Natural History Collections as required.

Volunteer Conditions

The CDS volunteer reports directly to the Coordinator of the Natural History Collections and to the Herbarium Taxonomy Assistant. The selected candidate will be based at the Charles Darwin Research Station (CDRS) on Santa Cruz Island, Galápagos, Ecuador. Volunteering at the FCD does not imply an ongoing relationship with the volunteer beyond the intended duration of the mission.

The volunteer is expected to work a minimum of 40 hours per week, from 07:45-12:30 and 14:00 - 17:15. Due to certain project activities, such as field trips or other priority activities, this schedule may be altered. Holidays and/or additional time off outside the station may be requested in advance by the volunteer but are subject to project coordinator approval.

How to Apply?

Interested individuals should submit their application form and attached documents in a single PDF file via email to the following address vol@fcdarwin.org.ec.

Subject: HERBARIO24_VOL_FULL NAME

Application forms and further information are available at the following link: <https://www.darwinfoundation.org/en/get-involved/vacancies/volunteers>. Please refer to this page for other requirements and application instructions: www.darwinfoundation.org.ec. For additional information, please contact vol@fcdarwin.org.ec.