

## Announcement

### Taxonomist, CDS Herbarium Assistant

**Type of position:** Full-time Staff

**Application deadline:** September 15th, 2019

**Start date:** October 1st, 2019

**Duration:** 12 months

#### Introduction

The Botanical Collection (CDS) is one of the four natural history collections at the Charles Darwin Research Station (CDRS). The main function of the Taxonomist, Herbarium Assistant is to preserve the type examples that are housed in the herbarium and the collections from historical and current botanical expeditions. In addition, they are responsible for the care and maintenance of herbarium samples, as a result of the contribution of scientific research projects carried out in the CDRS, mainly those that involve plant-animal interactions.

The specimens and the information that the collection maintains is essential for research projects because:

1. They contribute to the generation of the Galapagos plant baseline.
2. Contributes to the generation of knowledge about the diversity of plants in Galapagos.
3. Supports work with priority species for the conservation of the archipelago and,
4. Generates information on ecological interactions, mainly introduced species.

The Herbarium (CDS) consists of a repository of the diversity of Galapagos flora and is a growing source of taxonomic information on these groups for the archipelago. Within this botanical collection there are samples of vascular plants, which constitute the most abundant group; Non-vascular plants such as fungi, bryophytes, lichens and mosses are also stored in the collection. In addition, we have three auxiliary collections: Pollen, seeds and Xiloteca, being the first two, unique to the insular region and Ecuador. The specimens are collected in different islands of the archipelago by scientific staff of the CDF and by collaborating scientists, curators, technical assistants, thesis, fellows and volunteers. These samples are used to produce and provide knowledge about the Galapagos flora, to support, through scientific research, the conservation of the biological diversity of the archipelago, and to contribute to the conservation of the ecosystems of the Galapagos Archipelago.

#### Objectives and position description

The assistant taxonomist of the Herbarium CDS will be responsible for the management, curatorship and database management (Databoard) of the CDS Herbarium of the Charles Darwin Foundation. Together with the main curator of the herbarium, they will carry out all activities related to specimen handling, taxonomic identification, reporting, derived scientific publications and will also be responsible for the execution of the

Action Plan for the conservation and preservation of all botanical collections. It will also be responsible for receiving on-site local, national and international VIP visits.

## Requirements

- Biology degree with specialty in taxonomy and botany.
  - Experience with scientific photography equipment, including micro and macrophotography systems
  - Experience in the management of species in natural history collections, herbariums etc.
  - Ability to speak and write in English and Spanish
  - Experience in management of databases and botanic catalogues
  - Knowledge of curing techniques, taxonomy, management of information systems, fieldwork techniques for species collections, identification techniques and use of taxonomy keys.
  - Experience in scientific writing and publications
  - Knowledge and experience working with the flora of Galapagos.
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- Ability to work under pressure
  - Excellent communication skills
  - Good people management skills and multicultural and multi-institutional relationships.

## Responsibilities

- Assembly of botanical samples of all taxonomic groups of the botanical collection and their long-term preservation.
- Specimen scanning using HerbScan (specialized technology for herbarium samples) and digitalization equipment for natural history collections. They will be responsible for the maintenance of the photographic and image database, of collections, both locally and remotely (web server).
- Maintenance and curation of seeds and pollen collections of the herbarium.
- Development of field trips and monitoring of flowering and fruiting of critically endangered species and seed dispersal to enrich the collection, with the support of visiting scientists and taxonomic experts, which is related in priority thematic areas and with the need to complement information.
- Establishment and maintenance of contacts with botanical taxonomic experts from other herbaria in the world to promote and facilitate studies of little-known taxonomic groups.
- Preparation of annual reports of the collection necessary for the renewal of the annual operating patent.
- Ensure compliance, together with staff, associate scientists, volunteers and / or fellows, of the rules and protocols established for the use of natural history collections.
- Support to the main curator, in the elaboration of research proposals for the search of necessary funds for the maintenance and preservation of the entire botanical collection.
- Support to the main curator in the analysis and evaluation of research proposals in the area of Botany, on demand by the DPNG.
- Preparation, together with the main curator and associated scientists, of scientific publications related to the collection and from the herbarium collection.
- Coordination, assistance and supervision of the work of scientists, students and groups that visit the herbarium collection.

- Preventive management of pests that could affect the Herbarium collection, and treatment and control of pests, if any.
- Preventive bi-annual cure of the entire collection.

## Terms

The assistant taxonomist of the Herbarium will report to CDF Natural History Collection Coordinator. The candidate selected will be based at the Charles Darwin Research Station (CDRS) on Santa Cruz Island in the Galapagos Islands, Ecuador.

The assistant taxonomist of the Herbarium is expected to work 40 hours per week from 07:45-12:30 and 14:00 to 17:15. Because of certain project activities, such as field trips, this schedule may be changed.

## How to apply?

Applicants should submit the following documents via e-mail to: ([patricia.jaramillo@fcdarwin.org.ec](mailto:patricia.jaramillo@fcdarwin.org.ec), [asistente.taxonomo@fcdarwin.org.ec](mailto:asistente.taxonomo@fcdarwin.org.ec)).

- Updated resume.
- Letter of interest, describing their competencies according to the minimum requirements for this position.
- Three professional letters of recommendation, including the names and email addresses of the references.
- Names and email addresses of two references that can give a personal recommendation of the candidate.