



Position Available: Research Assistant (Plant Systematist/Herbarium Curator) Full-time

Department: Research

General Summary:

The Research Assistant aids the Plant Systematist in a wide range of aspects of the scientist's research. The main responsibilities of the Research Assistant are to maintain the molecular systematics and cytogenetics lab and execute research under the Plant Systematist's supervision, including associated field work, data processing/analysis, and manuscript work; and to assist the herbarium curator and herbarium assistant in all aspects of herbarium curation and management.

Job Qualifications

Previous Training and Experience

Bachelor's degree in the biological sciences, or equivalent combination of training and experience; botanical and molecular lab experience strongly desired. Ability to conduct lab and library research and use a computer to organize and analyze data required. Ability to oversee volunteers and train visitors in lab and herbarium techniques. Knowledge of plant taxonomy and herbarium practices desired. Prior experience analyzing molecular and/or quantitative genetic data highly preferred. Good writing skills are essential. Must be proficient in computer applications (word processing, data management and analysis).

Physical/Mental Requirements

Ability to organize time and working environments and to collaborate with researchers to learn methods and execute projects efficiently. Must be able to work indoors as well as outdoors under occasionally strenuous conditions. Ability to travel independently via car and/or public transit for field work and lab work. Demonstrated ability to work independently is essential.

Working Conditions

1. Significant amount of physical activity: lifting, carrying (up to 50 lbs), bending, climbing, standing/sitting (several hours per day for each), walking (up to several miles per day), balancing, kneeling.
2. Work is performed indoors and outdoors, occasionally under extreme weather conditions (heat, rain, cold).
3. Use of a variety of chemicals and reagents is required, including handling potentially carcinogenic or otherwise hazardous chemicals.

For full consideration, please submit a cover letter, [employment application](#), curriculum vitae, and contact information for three references by **Monday, February 15, 2010**, to: The Morton Arboretum, Human Resources, 4100 Illinois Route 53, Lisle, IL 60532 or jobs@mortonarb.org.

The Morton Arboretum is an Equal Opportunity Employer. All qualified applicants will receive equal consideration for employment.