

The Spatial Ecology and Conservation Lab at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC) is seeking a *post-baccalaureate* research technician starting Spring 2024. The technician will support multiple components of a research project that examines the responses of ground beetle (Carabidae) assemblages to a restoration experiment.

Forest restoration is a globally important conservation intervention for both climate change mitigation and for sustaining biodiversity and functioning ecosystems. The project focuses on understanding the mechanisms of how animal assemblages change in restoration areas. This study will be conducted at SERC within a long-term forest restoration experiment – BiodiversiTREE: <https://serc.si.edu/research/projects/biodiversitree>. The technician will support the project by participating in field and lab work including (1) field collections of ground beetles using pitfall traps, (2) conducting thermal experiments in the lab, and (3) management and integration of biodiversity and spatial data. Other responsibilities may include organizing gear for field work, preparing lab experimental set-ups, helping to sort and identify ground beetles using a stereoscope and dichotomous keys, working with volunteers or interns, and communicating project activities.

The technician will have the opportunity to develop a broader understanding of global change ecology and conservation, obtain experience working within a research lab and as part of a team, learn about research design and methods for ecological data collection, develop data management and analysis skills, and participate in science communication.

We are seeking applicants with some (but not necessarily all) of the following:

- Experience with fieldwork, preferably in the forest or in hot, humid conditions
- Experience with lab work, preferably with experiments related to insects or other animals
- Experience in data management (collecting, recording, entering, organizing)
- Experience in insect identification and/or using dichotomous keys
- Coursework and/or experience in ecology, environmental science, or entomology
- Written and verbal communication skills
- Ability to work independently
- Ability to work as part of a team

Compensation: \$700/week

Duration: 20 – 40 weeks, depending on budget

Application Deadline: Priority will be given to resumes sent by March 5, 2023. Open until filled.

A mutually agreeable start date will be determined with the selected applicant. **We anticipate a start date in early April 2024.** This will be an in-person position with lab and field work taking place in Edgewater, Maryland. On-site housing will be available until the end of May but cannot be guaranteed for the duration of the position.

The SERC community recognizes the value of diversity in promoting innovative science and creative solutions, and we strongly encourage candidates from all backgrounds to apply. We recognize that each applicant for this role will bring unique skills, knowledge, experiences, and background to this position; as such, we will be looking for candidates who possess many, but not necessarily all, of the qualifications and experience listed above.

To apply, please email a resume that highlights relevant experiences to Shelley Bennett (bennettm@si.edu).

For more information about our lab, please visit our website: <https://serc.si.edu/labs/spatial-ecology-and-conservation>

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