

Pollination Ecology Crew Leader – Mariana Islands (Guam, Saipan, Rota)

The Rogers Lab (www.haldre.org) in the Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation at Virginia Tech is seeking a crew leader for a pollination ecology project in the Mariana Islands. Our lab uses a combination of observational studies, experiments, and modeling to understand the impact of changing species interactions on forest dynamics and to develop effective conservation strategies.



This position is with the Ecology of Bird Loss project (www.ecologyofbirdloss.org) in the Mariana Islands, where the introduction of the brown tree snake has led to the loss of birds and bats from Guam's forests. Our research explores how this species loss cascades to affect food webs, seed dispersal, and pollination by comparing these processes on Guam to the nearby islands of Saipan and Rota where the native bird populations are still intact.

In this project, we are using multiple techniques to assemble plant-pollinator networks, including collecting pollen from birds, lizards, and insects and fecal samples from bats then using DNA metabarcoding to identify the plant species, collecting flowers and using metabarcoding to identify floral visitors, and observing pollination directly using visual surveys and camera traps. In addition, we will conduct pollination experiments to determine each plant species' dependence on pollinators for seed set. Finally, we will work with local high schools on all three islands through classroom presentations, field trips, after-school programs, and summer research experiences.

This position will be based primarily on the islands of Guam, Saipan, and Rota, with travel to Blacksburg, VA. The Pollination Ecology Crew Leader will be responsible for co-developing protocols, collecting field data, hiring and managing field staff, entering and managing data, overseeing our field infrastructure (houses, vehicles, etc.), and participating in or leading K-12 education activities. There will also be opportunities for participating in data analysis and manuscript writing.

Pay and benefits: \$35-40,000/year depending on experience; standard benefits package with health insurance and retirement; flight plus \$1500 for relocation expenses. Housing and vehicle usage will be provided temporarily upon arrival, and whenever away from the home island.

Duration: As soon as possible through August 2024, with potential for extension.

Required Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree or higher in biology, environmental science, botany, ecology, or other natural sciences.

- Experience in arthropod capture and identification and pollination ecology.
- Experience supervising staff and managing projects.
- Be a U.S. citizen at least 18 years of age with a valid driver's license.
- Be able to work independently, be a good team player and demonstrate excellent communication skills.
- Commitment to conducting science that prioritizes a strong relationship with the local community and advances principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion in all aspects of the work.

Preferred Qualifications:

- Masters' degree in biology, environmental science, botany, ecology, or other natural science
- Experience in K-12 outreach or education
- Knowledge of plant ecology (especially from Pacific Islands)
- Experience mist netting birds
- Experience managing data

To Apply: Send your cover letter, CV, and names/contact information for 3 references to Dr. Haldre Rogers at haldre@vt.edu with "Pollination Ecology Crew Leader" in the subject line. Be sure to note when you would be able to start in your cover letter.

Deadline: Position is open until filled.

Questions: Contact Dr. Haldre Rogers at haldre@vt.edu.