

REU and Research Assistant -- Ecology of multispecies interactions:

Herbivory, pollination and mycorrhizal interactions in cucumber

Two positions are available to study the ecology of multispecies interactions in an agro-ecosystem this summer at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst. This research will integrate multiple kinds of interactions to ask how aboveground and belowground antagonists (leaf herbivores and root herbivores) and mutualists (pollinators and mycorrhizae) interact to influence each other and reproductive yield in cucumber.

I am looking for motivated, independent students with a background in ecology/evolution who are interested in gaining or broadening her/his research experience. Students must be able to work well both independently and as part of a team, and be willing to work long days and possibly early mornings out in the field. Both positions are full-time without benefits, starting in June and ending in August (exact dates are flexible).

REU position: This is part of the National Science Foundation Research Experiences for Undergraduates program. Students must be undergraduates during summer 2009 to be eligible. The successful applicant will conduct an independent research project during the summer that will conclude with a presentation and formal write-up. The REU student will also assist as part of a team on a larger experiment. Stipend is \$450/week with \$300/month towards local housing. This student will accompany the Adler lab to attend the Ecological Society of America meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Research assistant position: This position is open to all applicants and has a salary of \$10/hour. The research assistant will help carry out the goals of a large research experiment. Depending on the applicant's experience, there is also the potential to conduct an independent research project.

Interested applicants should send (as a single pdf) the following: (1) a cover letter describing why you are interested in the position, your previous research experience, which position(s) you would like to be considered for, and your preferred start and end date, (2) a CV including your major, expected graduation date, current GPA, and relevant coursework, and (3) the names and contact information for three references to Dr. Lynn Adler (lsadler[at]ent.umass.edu). Review of applications will begin April 15 and continue until positions are filled. The University of Massachusetts at Amherst is an equal opportunity and affirmative action employer. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply.

Lynn S. Adler, Assistant Professor
Department of Plant, Soil and Insect Science 209E Fernald Hall 270 Stockbridge Rd.
University of Massachusetts
Amherst, MA 01003
ph 413-545-1060
fax 413-545-2115