

MS positions available Spring/Fall 2015. PhD Positions available Fall 2015. The Ott lab at Texas State University <http://jimott.wp.txstate.edu/> is seeking MS and PhD students to pursue studies that focus on population biology and ecological speciation of cynipid gall formers. Our lab focuses on the evolution of host specific gall-forming insects and their interactions with plants and natural enemies. Much of our work is conducted in collaboration with Dr. Scott Egan (Rice University, <https://sites.google.com/site/scottpegan/>) and thus students can anticipate working across labs.

Current projects include differentiation of gall former populations across host plant taxa, sex determination and genome size variation between generations of cyclically parthenogenetic cynipids, hypersensitive response of oaks to gall formers, and host plant and natural enemy mediated selection for gall former traits. These projects offer opportunities for research from population genomics thru quantitative ecology and involve both field and greenhouse-based manipulative experiments. Base funding is provided by renewable teaching assistantships.

Qualified students can expect substantial scholarship assistance and summer salaries. As well students are encouraged to apply for funding to further support projects. For information on ongoing and potential projects, recent publications, support and student outcomes visit <http://jimott.wp.txstate.edu/>. Interested students are invited to contact JimOtt@txstate.edu. The Department of Biology <http://www.bio.txstate.edu> offers a strong environment in population biology and population ecology. MS students are invited to apply to the Population and Conservation Biology Program <http://popconbio.wp.txstate.edu/> and PhD applicants are invited to apply to the multidisciplinary PhD program that accommodates a wide variety of basic and applied interests in Biology <http://www.bio.txstate.edu/Graduate-Programs/Ph-D--Aquatic-Resources.html> . Dr. Jim Ott Population and Conservation Biology Program Department of Biology, Texas State University San Marcos, Texas 78666 512-245-2321