

## **Position – Summer Undergraduate Research Opportunity, Florida mangroves & salt marshes**

We seek a summer research assistant for a study of species range expansion and community ecology in marsh and mangrove ecosystems along the Atlantic coast of Florida. The assistant will be supervised by graduate students associated with the University of Maryland and the Smithsonian Institution, based primarily at the Smithsonian Marine Station in Ft. Pierce, Florida.

The research broadly considers factors promoting and inhibiting species range expansion, and how ecological communities respond to habitat shifts that result from range expansion. In particular, most research help will be required for a pair of studies focusing on mangroves and marsh as resources for pollinators and crab communities. The assistant will have opportunities to conduct an independent research project that relates to plant-pollinator interactions, crab habitat selection, or a similar topic.

Field work will be conducted in a mixture of terrestrial and aquatic settings; work can be strenuous at times, and applicants should be willing and able to work in hot, buggy conditions in and around water. Previous experience with insects and/or crustaceans is preferred, but is not required. Tasks will include monitoring insect floral visitors and experimentally manipulating floral resources in the field, processing and identifying insect specimens in the lab, collecting plankton samples and traps, and identifying larval crabs using microscopes. Applicants will gain experience with GPS navigation, water analyzers, dissecting scopes, and data collection and management.

Position will be based in **Ft. Pierce and St. Augustine, Florida**. We will help the assistant to procure local housing. The assistant ideally will have a personal vehicle or local transportation of their own (it will not be used for work). **Compensation starts at \$10/hour** depending on qualifications. Position would begin in mid- to late-May, ending in August/September (specific dates are flexible).

Please send any queries or your application by email to Mayda Nathan <[mayda.nathan@gmail.com](mailto:mayda.nathan@gmail.com)> and Cora Johnston <[cora@umd.edu](mailto:cora@umd.edu)> by **April 1**. Applications should include a resume, contact information for two references, and a cover letter that describes prior research experience, relevant coursework, outdoor experience, and interests. Please include your dates of availability within the window given above.