



Job Title: Herbarium Research Botanist Area: Research

Position Status ☒ FT Exempt ☐ FT Non-Exempt ☐ PT-Seasonal/Intern Non-Exempt

Effective Date: Immediately Area Director: VP-Director of Research

Position Purpose

This position is a split appointment emphasizing the utilization, improvement, and growth of the BRIT herbarium. Equal time will be spent on (1) herbarium curation and management (alongside the Collections Manager) and (2) conducting original research focused on botanical and ecosystem exploration in Texas and elsewhere. Research projects must utilize existing collections and result in the acquisition of additional collections to be deposited in the BRIT herbarium.

Principal Responsibilities/Duties/Functions/Tasks

The Herbarium Research Botanist is responsible for increasing the accessibility of specimens by addressing herbarium backlog, specimen digitization, and taxonomic curation of the collection. These efforts will include participating in outreach and education activities to promote Texas botany and the value and use of herbarium collections, and establishing professional relationships with other institutions and scientists to promote Texas botany and biodiversity studies as well as the use of the BRIT collection.

The Herbarium Research Botanist will plan, direct, and participate in scientific expeditions focused on biodiversity exploration in Texas and elsewhere, conduct field- and collection-oriented original research resulting in peer-reviewed scientific publications, and will be required to seek funding to support both field and curatorial research and related herbarium activities.

The Herbarium Research Botanist will serve as a resource to ensure the accuracy of scientific information being shared by the BRIT outreach team, and be a primary consultant for requests addressed to BRIT regarding the identification and exploration of Texas plants. Participation in Texas biodiversity initiatives and representing the organization in relevant professional communities (e.g., TORCH, Texas Oklahoma Regional Consortium of Herbaria, torchherbaria.org) is expected.

The Herbarium Research Botanist is to promote the strategic growth of the herbarium collections through personal collections and requested material in the form of gifts and exchange, alongside the Collections Manager.

The Herbarium Research Botanist's duties include temporarily performing the duties of the Collections Manager in his/her absence (e.g., granting herbarium access, managing volunteers, specimen transactions, climate control monitoring), and supervising volunteers and interns, with the possibility of grant-funded staff, and perform other duties as needed to accomplish the goals of the Institute.

Qualifications

Advanced degree in botany or closely related discipline. Herbarium experience. Grant-writing experience with a record of successful project management. Ability and experience conducting and publishing original research. Interpersonal skills to work with staff, volunteers and the public. Oral and written communication skills. Demonstrable record of articulating the relevance and importance of one's scientific work to various audiences. Organization and planning skills. Training and/or experience analyzing biological data.



Preferences

The ideal candidate will have PhD degree in botanically-related area and knowledge of regional/Southwest flora. Experience with plant taxonomy. Familiarity with collections data management tools (e.g., Specify, Symbiota, Atrium). Familiarity with the International Code of Nomenclature for algae, fungi, and plants. Familiarity with taxonomy- and collections-related professional organizations (e.g., ASPT, IAPT, SPNHC, TDWG, iDigBio).

Work Requirements

Ability to do collecting and research in the field in Texas climate. Flexible work hours including occasional Saturdays.

Accountability: Director of Research

BRIT strives to maintain a positive work environment focused on growth and success of individuals working together in a collaborative, professional manner with communication a priority.

To apply, please submit a cover letter with salary requirements and a resume to: Brithr@brit.org. Applications will be considered until the position is filled. BRIT is an Equal Opportunity Employer.