



Post Doc Opportunities on Plant-Pollinator Interactions in the Mountains of Himalayas

The Pollination Ecology Lab of the Kunming Institute of Botany (Kunming, Yunnan), Chinese Academy of Sciences is offering THREE, 2- or 3-year post doc positions for plant-pollinator interaction research and related projects.

Projects description

Our lab is well funded by the Chinese Academy of Sciences and National Science Foundation of China to study Plant-pollinator Interactions in the Mountains of Southwest China for the next three to five years. The mountains of SW China are global, biodiversity hotspots harboring the highest diversities of both temperate flora and anthophilous insects on the planet. In particular, SW China retains half the world's bumblebee (*Bombus*) and honeybee (*Apis*) species. In the years to come, we shall try to understand how pollination plays a vital role in shaping/maintaining this biodiversity along environmental gradients. How do plant-pollinator relationships respond to global changes within this region and then compare our results to a continental and global scale. We will pursue scientific excellence in collaboration with international colleagues.

Therefore, we encourage our future Post Docs to pursue several topics and develop new ideas emphasizing the following keywords and terms; "species interactions", "environmental change" and "mountains":

1. Floral nectar production and pollinator foraging.
2. Floral signals (color/ scent/temperature) and the manipulation of plant-insect interactions.
3. Co-existence of closely related or "sister" species (both plants and pollinators) along an historical/spatial/temporal scale.
4. The pollination crisis in China: modeling pollinator decline and pollination services in agricultural or urban ecosystems.

Your tasks:

Successful, self-motivated candidates are expected to design/perform field/lab experiments, analyze data and write manuscripts. Field work will be done with KIB colleagues and students in targeted mountain regions.



Your profile should contain the following...

- A PhD degree in Ecology, Entomology, Botany, Genomics, Chemistry, Microbiology or a related field.
- An interest in community ecology, plant-pollinator interaction and alpine ecology.
- Evidence of your ability to design/conduct experiments and analyze data.
- Evidence of your ability to work in the field, greenhouse and lab environments.
- Advanced knowledge of statistical analyses using R (multivariate analyses, phylogenetic community structure, phylomorphospace, species distribution modeling, ecological networks or other related statistics).
- Willingness to live in a high elevation area (3300m) for one-two months a year.
- Ability to do field work at elevations from 3000-4000M (no elevation sickness).
- Proficiency in scientific English (spoken and writing), to communicate well and collaborate with your team.
- Ability/willingness to take the time to write articles for peer review.
- Respect for the cultures and religions of local, minority people
- Additional beneficial skills would include expertise in analytical chemistry (nectar/pigmentation composition), biochemistry (nectar/pigmentation secretion and absorption), and mathematical or simulation modeling (developing and testing predictions in terms of pollinator foraging, and developing models of plant-pollinator relationships).

Salary and other benefits

The KIB and our lab will pay 14,000 Yuan (RMB) per month (before tax; KIB pays 7,000 Yuan per month, our lab pays 7,000 Yuan per month). An average salary in Kunming is about 6,000 Yuan per month, and average living expenses for one person is about 3,000 Yuan per month including the cost of rent.

Candidates are encouraged to apply for one of the following funding resources in China to increase their salary while lowering the funding burden of our lab:

(1) China Postdoctoral System: International Postdoctoral Exchange Fellowship Program (Talent-Introduction Program)

http://english.chinapostdoctor.org.cn/content/details10_129.html

Talent-Introduction Program will provide 200,000 Yuan per year as salary for two years. The deadline of application is March 15, June 15 and Sep 15 of each year.

(2) President's International Fellowship Initiative (PIFI) of Chinese Academy of Sciences.

[http://international-talent.cas.cn/front/pc.html#bicsite/pifiIntroduce/pifi](http://international-talent.cas.cn/front/pc.html#/bicsite/pifiIntroduce/pifi)

PIFI post doc will provide 250,000 Yuan per year as salary for two years. The application deadline is April 15, June 15 and Sep 15 of each year.

To avoid dual benefit/pay, if a candidate is awarded pay by a Talent-Introduction Program or PIFI during the funding period our lab will not pay our part of salary (7,000 Yuan per month) but the KIB will still pay you 7,000 Yuan per month.

Other benefits for Post Docs from the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the KIB:

The Chinese Academy of Sciences will provide 200,000 Yuan for project funding for two years if you are awarded Talent Introduction Program, or round trip international flight tickets if you are awarded a PIFI post doc.



The KIB will provide: free health insurance, an apartment in the botanical garden, 600 Yuan per month per subsidy of apartment renting, free lunch for 210 days per year and an annual health examination.

The KIB and our lab will provide some additional subsidies for high quality performances (such as publications in high impact journals) at the end of year.

Other funding opportunities:

All research expenses, including field and lab work, are covered by our funding during your post doc in KIB. However, to increase your credit for funding competition for your future career, you are also encouraged to compete for the following research funds.

1. Research funding from China Postdoctoral System;
2. Research funding for post doc from Yunnan government;
3. NSF of China: Research Fund for International Young Scientists

Successful candidates will work in collaboration with Dr. Zong-Xin Ren; Prof. Hong Wang; Prof. Graham Pyke of Macquarie University, Australia; Prof. Klaus Lunau of Heinrich-Heine Universität, Germany; other Post Docs, PhD and Masters degree students. We are tightly connected to a web of additional, international collaborators.

These positions have no deadline but will end when all successful candidates are awarded.

Please contact Dr. Zong-Xin Ren (renzongxin@mail.kib.ac.cn) and Prof. Hong Wang (wanghong@mail.kib.ac.cn). Our collaborators Prof. Graham Pyke (graham.pyke@mq.edu.au) and Prof. Klaus Lunau (klaus.lunau@hhu.de) will also answer related questions. Don't hesitate to write us for more information.