National Parks Board
Senior Researcher / Researcher (Botanical Research – Herbarium) - SBG
Fixed Terms, Closing on 18 Jan 2026

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Apply here (see also link above and below)

What the role is
The Singapore Botanic Gardens (SBG) is one of the world's oldest tropical botanical gardens and one of only three botanic gardens globally recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The institution undertakes a range of research including taxonomy and systematics (including phylogenomics), conservation, forest and tree ecology, as well as other programmes in horticulture and urban ecology.

The Botanical Research Branch conducts taxonomy and systematics research on Malesian flora across the Herbarium, Molecular and Micropropagation Laboratories, and Seed Bank, with particular focus on Singapore's native species and regional plant diversity alongside conservation work on key groups including Orchidaceae and Zingiberaceae. The Singapore Herbarium (SING) holds approximately 800,000 collections from Singapore and the region, with extensive holdings from Peninsular Malaysia, Borneo, and New Guinea, and is currently undergoing digitalisation. The Gardens publishes the peer-reviewed journal Gardens' Bulletin Singapore and is overseeing the writing and publication of the Flora of Singapore in parallel with a genomic flora of Singapore's native species.

This role will be primarily based in SING and undertaking research into the plant diversity of Singapore and Malesia.

What you will be working on
You will be a member of the team working on research on the plant (angiosperm) diversity of Singapore and surrounding regions. We are seeking candidates with demonstrated experience and research expertise of collections-based research on plant taxonomy and systematics. The candidate’s research background should include applications of systematic theory and techniques, biogeography, understanding of morphological descriptive taxonomy and have working experience of employing modern tools for collections-based research including machine learning and/or biogeographic analysis. The candidate will be expected to develop a research programme on angiosperm groups for which Singapore Botanic Gardens has considerable holdings (e.g., Gentianales, Poales, Arecaceae), but candidates with research in other plant groups with high diversity in Southeast Asia will be considered. Opportunities for collaboration with regional partners and fieldwork will be possible and encouraged where they complement SBG's research

aims. In addition, the job holder is expected to leverage modern computational tools to develop research questions and publish research outcomes from the digital dataset generated as part of the SING digitalisation programme.

Specifically, you will:

- Initiate and drive exciting research projects to understand the diversity, evolution, biogeography and classification of important tropical groups found in Singapore and surrounding regions.
- Curate and enhance the holdings in SING through fieldwork and the acquisition of specimens, as well as critical identifications following new findings.
- Make use of rich image datasets and develop innovative research questions and projects with both internal and external stakeholders and collaborators employing new computational methods.
- Analyse data, publish findings in reputable peer-reviewed journals and share findings at scientific conferences.
- Communicate and share knowledge on plant diversity, herbarium research and conservation with students and non-scientist stakeholders, through giving talks and lectures, mentoring students, publishing popular scientific articles, media interviews etc.
- Support science across Singapore Botanic Gardens and within the National Parks Board, including involvement in projects on other research programmes, involvement in workshops and working groups, etc.

What we are looking for

- PhD in botany or related discipline with a taxonomic focus on angiosperms.
- Experience with herbarium-based research, proficiency in the statistical programming language R, Python and other statistical programming languages, evidence of working knowledge of innovative technologies to leverage data generated from specimens (e.g., ML from digital images, occurrence data etc.).
- Keen interest in the plant diversity of tropical Asia, integrative taxonomy, and a knowledge of contemporary APG classification (preferably with experience in species-rich tropical groups in Singapore and Malesia).
- Ability to formulate independent research projects with experience in scientific publishing in reputable scientific journals and drafting research proposals.
- Able to conduct field work for plant collections, including overseas travel.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills, with strong interpersonal abilities and capacity to work both independently and collaboratively in a team environment under time pressure.
- Self-motivated, organised, and open-minded, with willingness to take on roles and responsibilities to support the organisation's functions and mission.

Apply here

About your application process
Only shortlisted candidates will be notified.
This job is closing on 18 Jan 2026.

If you do not hear from us within 4 weeks of the job ad closing date, we seek your understanding that it is likely that we are not moving forward with your application for this role. We thank you for your interest and would like to assure you that this does not affect your other job applications with the Public Service. We encourage you to explore and apply for other roles within National Parks Board or the wider Public Service.

About National Parks Board
At the National Parks Board (NParks), we take pride in conserving our natural heritage and enhancing green spaces for all to enjoy in our City in Nature. We have a multi-talented and highly passionate team that is driven by the goal to create a unique world-class living environment through excellence in biodiversity conservation, greenery and recreation, and veterinary care in partnership with the community. If you share our love for nature and animals, and our zest for innovation and continuous learning, we have the perfect working environment for you.

Learn more about National Parks Board