

Job Announcement: The [Department of Entomology](#) at the [University of Maryland College Park](#) invites applications for a **Postdoctoral Associate in Community Ecology and Multitrophic Interactions**.



The postdoc will work with [Dr. Karin Burghardt](#) and colleagues to analyze long-term data investigating the role of neighboring tree diversity in determining how multitrophic interactions (insect, root, and leaf microbiome communities) and changes in the leaf chemical metabolome/traits alter tree productivity within the ten-year-old [BiodiversiTREE experiment](#) at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC) ~ a 40-minute drive from UMD. The work is part of an NSF collaborative grant and provides opportunities to work with a team from SERC, UNC-Greensboro, Warren Wilson College, and UT-Austin. It is a flexible position with room for the postdoc to develop additional questions and approaches while fulfilling grant objectives by analyzing long-term [datasets of metrics](#) from 540 repeatedly sampled trees from 15 tree species.

Primary responsibilities: Analysis and management of existing datasets, collection of new field data, authorship of peer-reviewed articles, and communication of findings at professional meetings. Dr. Burghardt will create an individualized postdoctoral mentoring plan with the incumbent, focusing on the postdoc's career goals.

Qualifications: Candidates must have a Ph.D. by the time of appointment in biology, ecology, environmental science, microbiology, plant sciences, entomology, forestry, or related field. Experience with data manipulation and statistical analysis using R, excellent written and verbal communication skills, and the ability to acquire a valid MD driver's license are required. Preferred candidates additionally will have *some* of the following strengths: experience with path analysis, multivariate approaches, functional/phylogenetic diversity, and/or multi-level models; experience with plant, fungal, or arthropod taxa (especially caterpillars, hemipterans, or natural enemies); experience with plant/insect husbandry, work in diversity experiments and/or forest experiments, demonstrated commitment to reproducible and open science; prior success in working with teams and an interest in mentoring students; experience and interest in outreach/extension, and a strong track record of peer-reviewed publication.

Position Details: This position is based at the College Park campus of the University of Maryland and includes competitive salary (minimum \$60,000/yr) and [benefits](#). This is a full-time, 12-month, 1-yr position with an ideal (but flexible) start date of June or July 2024, to get acquainted with field sites. Reappointment is available for up to 2 additional years, conditional on satisfactory performance and the availability of funds.

Application details: Review will begin immediately, and the position will remain open until a suitable candidate is identified. All applications received on or before 20th May 2024 will be guaranteed consideration. The application should include (i) a cover letter with the applicant's interest, experience, and preferred start date. (ii) a CV, (iii) contact information for 3 references. It should consist of a single, combined pdf titled "lastname_pda2024.pdf" and be emailed to kburghar@umd.edu.

The University of Maryland, College Park, actively subscribes to a policy of equal employment opportunity, and will not discriminate against any employee or applicant because of race, age, sex, color, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, religion, ancestry or national origin, marital status, genetic information, political affiliation, and gender identity or expression. Minorities and women are encouraged to apply.