

Field Ecology - Beetle Taxonomy Internship (Summer 2017)

Intern Duties

Intern's primary focus will be to learn to identify carabid beetles and develop a location-specific dichotomous and photographic key. Intern will also spend time in the field assisting with Beetle Abundance and Diversity protocol and in the laboratory processing samples. Given the bi-weekly beetle sampling this internship will have a regular 2-week pattern.

Field Component (1 day): Intern will accompany Field Technicians to field sites and assist with beetle collections from pitfall traps.

Laboratory Component (2-5 days): Intern will process the field collected beetles in the laboratory (e.g., ethanol washes, sorting bycatch, sorting and pooling beetles). This will include familiarizing themselves with the carabid beetle teaching collection and identification of beetles using dichotomous keys.

Dichotomous Key Component (4-5 days): Following familiarity of carabid species, the intern will photograph beetles, including key characteristics, and develop a location-specific photographic dichotomous key(s) based on multiple existing sources.

Project Products

- Location-specific photographic dichotomous key(s).
- Photographs of local carabid beetle species and their key/distinguishing characteristics.
- Present weekly project status updates to NEON mentor; and departmental team and peers for feedback periodically throughout the summer.
- Prepare report describing NEON Beetle Taxonomy project outcomes.
- Present technical poster showcasing internship project to NEON team and to peers at final Intern Poster Session at end of the summer program.

Seminars and Departmental Meetings

Participate in technical and career seminars and meetings with NEON science staff, NEON Internship program staff, and peers.

Community and Professional Behavior

Interns are part of a diverse community of peers working and living together. Interns are expected to contribute positively to the community and to conduct themselves in a manner appropriate to a professional environment. Interns are also expected to fully participate during normal office hours and during NEON Internship functions.

Decision making and problem solving

Interns will use basic problem solving skills in their work, will exercise judgment regarding when to ask for help, and will consult with their supervisor or mentor on larger job or community related issues.

Education and Experience

Required

Currently enrolled in a community college or undergraduate program with a focus in entomology, insect taxonomy, ecology, biology, or environmental sciences. Must have had at least one semester of entomology and/or insect taxonomy course work or demonstrate equivalent experience. Must have at least one semester of undergraduate education remaining after the summer program. Desired (but not required)

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Preference for students with experience identifying beetles, collecting and preserving insects (i.e., pinning and pointing), and basic photography skills would be desired, but not required.

Knowledge/Skills/Abilities

- Basic knowledge, through coursework, of insect taxonomy and the ability to use dichotomous keys.
- Basic photography skills.
- Independent learner.
- Good oral and written communication skills.
- Ability to work full-time in Boulder, CO during the summer program.
- Ability to interact with mentors and peers in a manner that supports collaboration and inquiry.
- Ability and willingness to work within guidelines and policies of the organization and assigned work groups.

Other Requirements

You must have permanent authorization for US employment. Battelle Ecology, Inc. will not provide any kind of visa sponsorship