

Subject: Postdoc in Evolutionary ecology and genomics of social insects

Postdoctoral position in evolutionary ecology and population genomics of paper wasps

The Sheehan lab at Cornell University seeks a postdoc for evolutionary ecology projects using comparative and/or population genomics in *Polistes* paper wasps. Paper wasps are a diverse group of primitively eusocial insects that have served as a model system in studies of social behavior. From a population genetics perspective, *Polistes* wasps are especially appealing for a few reasons including small genome sizes, males are haploid allowing for perfectly phased data and wasps are abundant in a wide variety of habitats making it easy to get large numbers of samples. They can also be reared in the lab.

A 2-3 year position is available (initial 12 month appointment with the possibility of renewal). Start date is flexible. Information about salary and benefits at Cornell can be found here: <https://postdocs.cornell.edu/postdoctoral-associates-benefits>.

The lab is especially interested in using comparative and population genetic approaches to examine the ecological and evolutionary causes and consequences of cooperative nesting and visual recognition in wasps, though postdocs are very much encouraged to develop independent projects making use of population and comparative genomic data being generated by the lab. Possible areas of independent project may include (but are not limited to) environmental adaptation, mimicry, host-parasite interactions, microbiomes, sensory ecology, historical phylogeography, speciation, etc.

Depending on the nature of the project and the postdoc's interest, the postdoc will have the opportunity to conduct fieldwork in the US or abroad, conduct behavioral or cognitive experiments and/or carry out molecular work.

Required qualifications:

Ph.D. or equivalent degree in biology, evolution, ecology, genetics, bioinformatics, or related field. Publication of work based on dissertation. Working knowledge of bioinformatics pipelines and standard population genomic analyses. Proficiency in scripting language (e.g. Python or Perl) and depth in some area of comparative or population genomics is preferred. Prior wet lab or field experience is not required.

To apply please submit a cover letter describing your relevant experience and research interests as they relate to the system, a CV, the contact information for three references, and 1-2 relevant publications to Dr. Michael Sheehan (msheehan@cornell.edu).

Diversity and inclusion are a part of Cornell University's heritage. Cornell is a recognized employer and educator valuing AA/EEO, Protected Veterans, and Individuals with Disabilities.

Please feel free to contact me at the above email address with any questions.

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