From: Nika Galic

Subject: Postdoctoral position - Assessing risks to threatened and endangered species: Modeling freshwater mussel populations - University of Minnesota

Valery Forbes (University of Minnesota), Nika Galic (Syngenta) and Daniel Hornbach (Macalester College) are looking for a highly motivated and collaborative postdoc to work on a project assessing potential risks to threatened and endangered freshwater mussel species from pesticide exposure through population modeling. In particular this project will involve a life-history analysis of listed and non-listed freshwater mussel species inhabiting Midwest and Southeastern US water bodies and development of generic population models to represent different life-history groupings using a case study approach. Possible validation through field data and population trends from monitoring programs will be explored. Freshwater mussels provide essential services in freshwater ecosystems and represent one of the most endangered groups of animals in North America. Pesticide risk assessments are required for species listed as threatened or endangered in accordance with the Endangered Species Act, and population modeling has been recommended by the National Research Council as a valuable tool in such assessments. A major challenge in developing population models for listed species is a lack of physiological and life-history data for the vast majority of species. This project will aim to address this challenge.

The postdoc will be employed in the Department of Ecology, Evolution and Behavior at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities and co-supervised by Valery Forbes, Nika Galic and Daniel Hornbach. The position term is for 2 years, and is annually renewable depending on performance and availability of funding. The successful candidate will receive training in professional and personal development, research collaboration, presentation and publication of results, outreach, and mentoring. The position includes a competitive salary and health insurance. Review of applications will begin immediately and will continue until the position is filled. A near-term start date is desired.

All applicants must have a Ph.D. in biology, ecology, ecotoxicology or a related field, and preferably be well acquainted with mussel biology and/or ecology. Expertise in modeling and/or computer programming is highly desirable.

Applications should include: (i) brief cover letter, (ii) curriculum vitae, (iii) a brief description of past research accomplishments (under two pages), and (v) the names and contact information for three references. All materials should be uploaded through the University of Minnesota's online system:

Visit http://www1.umn.edu/ohr/employment/

Click the appropriate internal or external applicant link

Search Job ID# 322858

The curriculum vitae, description of past research accomplishments, and references should be combined into one PDF and uploaded in the resume area. The cover letter should be uploaded as a separate document.

Any questions should be directed to Valery Forbes (vforbes@umn.edu).

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