Post-doctoral positions, monocot phylogenomics and evolution

Two post-doctoral positions in monocot molecular phylogenetics and comparative biology are now available in the Department of Botany at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Annual salaries are $36,000 based on 22-month terms. These positions provide exciting opportunities for research on broad-scale patterns of monocot phylogeny, biogeography, and ecology. The successful candidates will work closely with T. J. Givnish in Madison, as part of a $2.9M project funded by NSF and involving six campuses in the United States and colleagues in Canada, Europe, Japan, and Australia. Research will include (1) sequencing, annotating, and comparing whole chloroplast genomes, and (2) identifying and sequencing several nuclear genes for taxa representing all major groups of monocots. Both positions will involve extensive phylogenetic analyses, calibration of molecular trees against fossil dates, and overlays of morphological, ecological, and distributional data. Opportunities will be provided for close collaboration with other post-docs and PIs involved in the project, including studies of transcriptomes, whole-plastid genomes, a wide array of morphological and anatomical characters, and fossil monocots. Applicants should have extensive hands-on experience with DNA sequencing, informatics, and phylogenetic reconstruction, broad evolutionary interests, and excellent skills in written and oral expression.

Applicants should contact Professor Givnish at givnish@wisc.edu. Please provide a letter summarizing your research interests and experience, why this opportunity is exciting for you, and contact information for two professional references. Preferred starting dates are September 15 2008 for the plastome position, and February 1 2009 for the nuclear-gene position, but some flexibility is available to permit recruitment of the strongest possible candidates.

Madison is a vibrant community of 200,000 set amid four large lakes, with a rich mix of cultural offerings and outdoor activities, and an excellent quality of life. The University of Wisconsin-Madison is a world-class research center, with 42,000 students and 2000 faculty; federal research funding ranks third nationally among public institutions. Excellent sequencing facilities are available through the UW Biotechnology Center. The Department of Botany perennially ranks in the top five among its peers nationally, and includes six labs with a strong focus on plant evolution and systematics. Information on research in Professor Givnish’s lab can be seen at http://www.botany.wisc.edu/givnish.

Unless confidentiality is requested in writing, information regarding applicants and nominees must be released upon request. Finalists cannot be guaranteed confidentiality.

The University of Wisconsin-Madison is an Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action Employer.