POSTDOCTORAL POSITION IN PLANT EVOLUTION/BIOGEOGRAPHY AT IISER-THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, KERALA, INDIA.

A postdoctoral position in Evolutionary Ecology is available at IISER Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India, in the Vanasiri Evolutionary Ecology Group of Ullasa Kodandaramaiah (www.vanasiri.in)

DEADLINE: 23 June 2015

SALARY: Rs. 43,200 (Rs 36,000 + 20% Housing Rent Allowance)

DURATION: Up to 3 years (initial contract will be for 1 year, but can be extended on a yearly basis contingent on satisfactory performance).

RESEARCH AREA: The candidate is expected to play an active role in the project under which the current position is advertised, but the workload as part of project per se will be fairly light. Collaborations on other projects in plant evolutionary biology between the postdoc and our research group will be encouraged and facilitated.

The position is advertised under a collaborative project involving our group and plant taxonomists. The goal is to carry out historical biogeographic and phylogeographic analyses within a comparative biogeography framework to understand the factors affecting diversification of plants in the Western Ghats mountain system in India. The duties of the selected candidate will include some field work along with collaborators to sample plants. The major part of the work will involve DNA sequencing and phylogenetic analyses. A Junior Research Fellow will also be part of the project, and will work under the guidance of the postdoc.

Our lab has ongoing projects on plant evolutionary biology, and we would like to begin new experimental work in this area. This can be either field or greenhouse based. I have a few ideas in mind in the area of evolution of plant reproductive traits. However the candidate will have plenty of flexibility in designing projects, and can involve undergraduate students & interns. You are welcome to contact me informally (ullasa@iisertvm.ac.in) for discussions before sending in your formal application.

SELECTION: The advertisement for the position is at http://iisertvm.ac.in/openings/read_opening/119. The candidate should have a PhD in biological sciences, and a good publication record. Experience in phylogenetic work and familiarity with plant taxonomy will be an advantage. Independence and willingness to collaborate with the research group on other projects will be a major plus - a candidate who can bring in new expertise to the lab in this area will have a strong advantage.

ADVERTISEMENT: http://iisertvm.ac.in/openings/read_opening/119

LIFE IN KERALA AND THIRUVANANTHAPURAM (TRIVANDRUM): The coastal city of Thiruvananthapuram is the capital of Kerala, and has a rich cultural heritage. It is within a stone's throw away from world-famous beaches such as Kovalam and Varkala, and lovely backwater tourism areas such as Poovar. Several hill stations (e.g Ponmudi) and wildlife sanctuaries are close by. Being a major medical tourism destination, the city has excellent medical care facilities.

It is a relatively small city, and the cost of living tends to be considerably lower than in bigger Indian cities. A 2-bedroom apartment can be had for Rs 8,000 - 10,000 per month. There are plenty of options for dining out - a meal at a decent local restaurant can start from Rs 50, but a good meal
with a drink even in a five-star hotel need not cost more than Rs 1000. Costs for groceries and other
daily needs can be looked up here (www.kada.in). Taxis can be hired from Rs 10 per km (with a
minimum fare of Rs 50), while the cost of driving your own small car (not for the faint-hearted!) is
about Rs 5 per kilometer (petrol: Rs 67/litre, diesel: Rs 55/litre).

Ullasa Kodandamaiah ullah@iisertvm.ac.in