

1GRADUATE STUDENT POSITION (M.Sc.) Wild Pollinator Ecology & Conservation

Co-Supervision: Dr. Luise Hermanutz, Dept. of Biology, Memorial University and Dr. Chris Cutler, Dept. of Environmental Sciences, Nova Scotia Agricultural College

Location: Memorial University, St. John's, NL, Canada

Project: The island of Newfoundland offers a unique opportunity to study native pollinators under conditions found in few places in Canada – because of its isolation from the rest of North America, there is almost an absence of both non-native bumblebees and honey bees. This field-based project will attempt to clarify factors that affect wild bee diversity and abundance in lowbush blueberry habitats across the island. The M.Sc. candidate will correlate native bee population dynamics with natural vegetation during and following bloom. Additional investigations will examine the prevalence and impact of imported, non-native bees on the wild bee fauna. This research will investigate the role of native pollinators in the development of an important indigenous fruit crop, and more basic issues of conservation biology and biodiversity surrounding wild bees and the pollination of native berries. The project is part of the NSERC Canadian Pollination Initiative (CANPOLIN - www.uoguelph.ca/canpolin) and thus will provide the successful candidate a unique opportunity to collaborate with a large, national team of scientists on issues surrounding pollinators and pollination in Canada.

Qualifications: Applicants must hold a B.Sc. Honours degree in the biological sciences, and have a first class GPA in the last two years of undergraduate study. Experience and knowledge in insect and plant ecology would be valuable assets. Strong written and oral communication skills are necessary to successfully complete this programme.

Stipend: \$17,500 per year for two years, contingent on funding. Canadian citizens and permanent residents will be encouraged to apply for a NSERC PGS scholarship valued at \$17,300, or any other applicable scholarship.

Start Date: May 2010

To Apply: For additional information on the research project and to submit the application, please contact: Dr. Luise Hermanutz, Dept. of Biology, Memorial University, St. John's, NL, Canada A1B 3X9; e-mail: lhermanu@mun.ca.

Graduate Program Information: For further information on the M.Sc. Program at Memorial University, see <http://www.mun.ca/biology> and/or contact the Biology Graduate Program Coordinator at graduate.biology@mun.ca or (709) 737-7498.