Position Available:

Summer Research Assistant
Ecology at UNC - Chapel Hill

Images from the field research site at Mason Farm Biological Reserve, Chapel Hill, NC. Left: Johnsongrass (Sorghum halepense), a disturbance-adapted invasive species. Right: The introduced bird cherry-oat aphid (Rhopalosiphum padi), a major vector of barley yellow dwarf virus, a disease which affects many species of wild & cultivated plants.

Research summary: Previous research experience and completion of a general ecology course is preferred. The position will involve a mixture of field and laboratory work, with the ability to work outdoors in sometimes uncomfortable conditions being essential (i.e. direct sun, occasional rain). Successful applicants will learn basic field ecology techniques and laboratory procedures. Our work focuses mainly on the role of viral & fungal plant pathogens and aphid vectors in:

• controlling or facilitating biological invasions by plants;
• modulating the effects of global change on terrestrial ecosystems; and
• structuring plant communities.

Time and money: The preferred start date is between mid-April and mid-May, however the exact date is negotiable. The position would continue as full-time until at least mid-August. Ability to work full- or part-time in the fall is preferred, but not required. The starting salary is $8.00 to $9.67/hr, depending on experience.

To Apply: Please submit the following items in an email:

• A current resume
• Contact information for (2) references
• Possible and preferred start and end dates
• A brief cover letter

Please send applications to Scot Waring (swaring@bio.unc.edu). Applications are accepted via email only and will be evaluated on a rolling basis, so apply soon. For more information on our research program go to: http://www.bio.unc.edu/faculty/mitchell/lab/