

Biology Internships – Entomologist, Insect Identification with CRACYP for Progreso Verde (“Green Progress”)



2012

Introduction

This document should be read in conjunction with the Internship Information Pack available at www.progresoverde.org/internship.html

In order to expand the local economy and help stem rural-urban migration in the region, CRACYP is developing an eco-tourism project. The eco-lodge will be constructed at the edge of a tract of forest, and one of the primary attractions will be exploring the ecosystem via guided hikes. As part of the project, we need an inventory of the insect life of the area.

Objectives

We need entomology interns with experience in identification of tropical species to identify insects endemic to the region; butterflies are of particular interest because of their popularity with tourists. Interns will explore the forest at the project site to discover what species are actually present, in what abundance, and their relationship to the local ecosystem. The interns' findings will be organized into a manual, preferably with photos for easy identification, in order to train local guides. Ideally, if the interns' Spanish language skills are sufficient, they will pilot training programs for guides using the information they have gathered, as well.

Another project that may be undertaken, if language skills and time allow, is to research local folklore, traditions, and cultural practices that incorporate local insect populations. This information should also be catalogued for training purposes.

Location

You will be based in the picturesque little village of Jilimbí in Bolívar Province, close to the border with Cotopaxi Province. The nearest town you might find on a map is Moraspungo, about an hour's journey up into the mountains from the main road between Quevedo and Ventanas. You will work primarily at the project site about a forty-five minute walk from Jilimbí.

Requirements

Entomology interns will need to either be fairly independent or else have access to research materials and advice by email from their university, if needed. CRACYP's Volunteer Coordinator will be available for support such as translation, but she is not an entomologist. She can also help with local contacts that may be useful for conducting research, so that interns can take advantage of local knowledge when possible. Spanish language skills would be extremely useful. Interns should also have experience working outdoors in a somewhat physically demanding environment.

This post could also be available as a volunteer opportunity rather than an internship, for those not requiring to use the experience as part of their studies – download the Volunteer Information Pack from www.progresoverde.org/volunteer_ecuador.html in this case.

How to Apply

Read the Internship Information Pack or Volunteer Information Pack for details of how to apply.

