

## Field assistant post for Bush-cricket call diversity project work

### Brief of the project:

Our neuroethology lab works on insect communication and behavioral ecology. We study the ecological diversity of bush crickets and their acoustic calls. The main aim of this project is to characterize the acoustic diversity in the forest ecosystem and establish a baseline sense of biodiversity for long term monitoring relative to land use and climate change challenges.

For the purpose of this project, our field sites will be in Meghalaya and Uttarakhand. For this project the field assistant we recruit will need to perform transect sound sampling and specimen collection at night in evergreen or semi-evergreen forest areas at night (~ 8 pm - 2 am). We will automate the recording of calls in the field and set up a pipeline for analysis. The researcher may need to travel between cities and the forest of Meghalaya and Uttarakhand depending on the project's need. The tenure will be for 6 months (July 2022- December 2022) and it may increase based on the requirement of the project.

### Requirements of a field assistant:

1. Should have some sort of ecological fieldwork experience, and theoretical knowledge in ecology, biodiversity, zoology is optional but preferred.
2. Should be able to communicate in English, and any fluency in Khasi and Hindi will be a strength.
3. The candidate needs to help the researcher with technical work and accompany them in the field .
4. The candidate should be comfortable working at night.
5. The candidate should be able to take care of the captive insects in absence of the researcher.
6. If the candidate can drive a car and bike on off roads and hilly terrain, with a valid driving license, that would be preferred.

### What we can offer?

1. A stipend will be provided as per DST norms.
2. A place to stay in the field and all travel costs for the project will be covered.
3. The fuel costs (only toward the purpose of the project) will be covered if you use your own vehicle.
4. An opportunity to be part of real field work alongside other researchers, and to increase one's knowledge of forest ecology and acoustic biodiversity monitoring.

### Things to remember :

1. This project is fundamentally about monitoring insects in the forest. The person should not have any phobia around catching insects, including severe fears about other creatures - snakes, scorpions, leeches etc, that one may encounter in the forest. All fieldwork will be done at night either in dense forests, forest patches, or coniferous forests.
2. You should ideally have your own gear (sturdy shoes, full cover clothes, rain boots, raincoats). Torches will be provided by us.
3. The field site may not have a proper network connection and wifi. Power can be irregular so carry your own power banks.
4. No liquor and smoking is allowed in field sites.

### How to apply:

1. Email your CV to [bittu@ashoka.edu.in](mailto:bittu@ashoka.edu.in) with the subject "Application for the field assistant post" by 8.9.2022