Postdoctoral Fellowship Opportunity at the National Museum of Natural History

The Natural Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, is pleased to announce a postdoctoral fellowship to work on a project in collaboration with Dr. Gene Hunt in the Department of Paleobiology. This project, entitled Does Sexual Selection Promote Speciation and Extinction? A Test Using the Fossil Record of Ostracodes, combines morphometric measurement of sexual dimorphism in fossil ostracodes with analysis of stratigraphic ranges of taxa to test if sexual selection modulates speciation and extinction rates in these taxa. Duties will involve morphometric data collection and analysis, fieldwork in the US Coastal Plain, analysis of stratigraphic ranges, and coordination of research efforts with external collaborators.

The initial appointment is for 12 months. Further support is possible, depending on the outcome of additional fund-raising. Applicants must have attained a Ph.D. and be able to start the position by August 2014. Stipend will be $45,000 plus a $4,000 allowance for health insurance.

Ideal candidates would have one or more of the following areas of expertise: good quantitative skills, background in micro- and macroevolution, experience with microfossils (especially ostracodes) and field paleontology. Above all, however, we are looking for a bright and productive scholar who is interested in the project. We welcome applications from candidates with backgrounds in paleontology, evolutionary biology, or related fields.

Review of applications will begin February 3, 2014 and will continue until the position is filled. Interested applicants, who may be of any nationality, should send a cover letter with a brief statement of research interests, a curriculum vitae, and contact information for three references. Materials should be sent via email to Gene Hunt (hunte@si.edu), who is also the contact for additional information.

The Smithsonian Institution is an Equal Opportunity Employer.