

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Global Biodiversity Scientist in Amphibian and Reptile Evolutionary Biology

Title and Department: Assistant Professor, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, and Assistant Curator, Biodiversity Institute, University of Kansas

Starting date: Expected to begin as early as August 20, 2012

Type of Appointment: Tenure-track

Position number: 00002289

Job Title Code Number: 025301

Position Overview

The Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and the Biodiversity Institute at the University of Kansas invite applications for a tenure-track joint position as Assistant Professor (50%) and Assistant Curator (50%) that focuses on the Biodiversity and Evolutionary Biology of Amphibians and Reptiles. Appointment is expected to begin as early as August 20, 2012. The successful candidate will: (a) utilize systematic techniques to address research questions in the biodiversity and evolutionary biology of amphibians and/or reptiles; (b) teach courses in systematic herpetology, general biology, and additional areas of expertise (typically one 3 hr course and one graduate seminar/yr); and (c) assist in the stewardship of the Biodiversity Institute's extensive herpetological collections. Required qualifications: Ph.D. in a related field by expected start date of appointment; a demonstrated research program in the biodiversity, evolutionary biology, and systematics of amphibians and/or reptiles; demonstrated commitment to collections-based research, fieldwork, and multiple, integrative approaches (e.g., study of the phenotype, genotype, and/or biodiversity informatics); demonstrated commitment to developing an extramurally-funded research program; demonstrated commitment to excellence in management of herpetological research collections and associated data; demonstrated commitment to excellence and innovation in the teaching and mentoring of undergraduate and graduate students. To apply, go to <https://jobs.ku.edu> and search for position number 00002289. Initial review of applications begins October 17, 2011 and continues as long as needed to identify a qualified applicant pool. EO/AA Employer

Duties:

1. Conduct a collections-based research program in the biodiversity, evolutionary biology, and systematics of reptiles and/or amphibians.
2. Serve as a Curator of Herpetology, with shared responsibility for the stewardship, management, and use of the herpetological collections and their data.
3. Teach courses in the evolution and systematics of amphibians and/or reptiles, organismal diversity, and/or general biology, as well as graduate seminars in areas of expertise.

4. Foster and direct graduate-student education and research with the goal of making a strong contribution to the graduate program in the Division of Herpetology.
5. Interact with colleagues in related disciplines.
6. Contribute to the overall national and international service mission of the Department, Biodiversity Institute, College, and University (and serve on committees as appropriate).

Percentage of Time Responsibility / Duty in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

20 % Teaching

Responsibilities include:

- Teach one 3-hour course per academic year, alternating a course in herpetology or organismal diversity/general biology with an additional course in sub-discipline of expertise.
- Teach one advanced graduate seminar per academic year.
- Provide instruction throughout the semester, usually 3 hours/week/3 hour course.
- Develop assignments, administer tests, evaluate student work, provide feedback to students, and assign grades.
- Hold regular office hours for students involved in classes taught.
- Adhere to departmental, College, and University policies.

20 % Research

Faculty members are expected to perform significant research in the form of scholarly activity in the biodiversity, evolutionary biology, and systematics of amphibians and reptiles. Contributions of a faculty member to the research mission of EEB are judged principally on the maintenance of an extramurally-funded program of productive research, as evident from

- scholarly publications.
- communication of current research at appropriate professional meetings
- extramural support for research activities.

10 % Service

Faculty members are expected to perform service to the Department, College, University, and to the profession. Service will include but not be limited to service on Department, College, and University committees and service to professional societies.

Percentage of Time Responsibility / Duty in the Biodiversity Institute

20 % Collection Stewardship

Responsibilities include:

- Share responsibility for the administration, stewardship, management and use of herpetological collections (including genetic resources) and associated data.
- Assist in developing extramural support for collection improvement projects.

20 % Research (includes graduate education & mentoring)

Faculty curators are expected to maintain an active collections-based research program in the biodiversity, evolutionary biology and systematics of amphibians and/or reptiles. It is expected that this research program will be extramurally funded and collaborative. Scholarly activities must include:

- Scholarly publications;
- Communication of current research at appropriate professional meetings; and,
- Extramural support for research activities

It is expected that the research program of the successful candidate will result in a nationally recognized graduate/postdoctoral mentorship program.

10 % Service (including public education)

Faculty curators are expected to perform service to the Biodiversity Institute, including but not limited to service on BI committees, shared oversight of common laboratory facilities in the BI, and contribution to the Natural History Museum's public programs as appropriate.

Required qualifications:

1. Ph.D. in appropriate discipline is expected by the start date of the appointment, with evidence of a strong background in the biodiversity, evolutionary biology, and systematics of amphibians and reptiles.
2. Demonstrated research program in the biodiversity, evolutionary biology, and systematics of amphibians and/or reptiles, with evidence of a commitment to collections-based research, fieldwork, and multiple, integrative approaches (e.g., study of the phenotype, genotype, and/or biodiversity informatics), and to developing an extramurally funded research program.
3. Demonstrated commitment to excellence in development/management of herpetological research collections and associated data for research, education, and service.
4. Demonstrated commitment to excellence and innovation in the teaching and mentoring of graduate students.
5. Demonstrated ability and desire to teach courses in herpetology, evolutionary biology, organismal diversity, and/or general biology, and other core courses, as well as specialized classes in areas of expertise.

Evaluation of the requirements above will be made by review of the applicant's: (1) record of research, teaching, and curatorial experience; (2) graduate and post-doctoral work; (3) record of research accomplishments, publications, productivity, and extramural funding; (4) statements of teaching philosophy, research experience, and collection stewardship; (5) professional references; and (6) research focus/expertise in new sub-disciplines of biodiversity, systematics and evolution (e.g., phylogenetic comparative methods, statistical phylogeography, phylogenomics, integrative approaches to morphology and development) as they relate to the existing strengths of KU's herpetological collections and the mission of the Biodiversity Institute.

On-line application to consist of: (1) curriculum vitae; statements of (2) research interests and future directions, (3) teaching philosophy, experience, and interests, and (4) curatorial, and collection- and data-management philosophy, experience, and interests; and (5) PDF copies of three selected publications/manuscripts. In addition, three letters of recommendation should be submitted as PDF attachments to an e-mail sent to the attention of: Dorothy Johanning: jdorothy@ku.edu). Application and additional information: <https://jobs.ku.edu> (position number 00002289). Review of applications will begin October 17, 2011, and will continue until no longer needed. For more information visit <http://www.ukans.edu/~eeb> or <http://biodiversity.ku.edu/>. The University of Kansas is especially interested in applicants who can contribute to the University's innovative, collaborative, and multidisciplinary initiatives to educate leaders, build healthy communities, and make discoveries that will change the world. See <http://www.provost.ku.edu/planning/>.

Availability of position is contingent on final budgetary approval. The successful candidate must be eligible to work in the U.S. prior to the position's starting date. *The University of Kansas is an EO/AA Employer.*