



SIKKIM UNIVERSITY

(A Central University established by an act of Parliament of India, 2007)
6th Mile, Samdur, Tadong – 737102, Gangtok, East Sikkim, Sikkim

ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE POSTS OF PROJECT ASSOCIATE (2)

Applications are invited for the Two posts of Project Associate (PA) under the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), GoI funded collaborative project – *The Chemical Ecology of the L-DOPA containing Plants and Their Interaction with the Herbivores* to be implemented jointly by the Sikkim University, Gangtok and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore; National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS), Bangalore, and National Institute of Plant Genome Research (NIPGR), New Delhi.

About the Project:

Several legume taxa synthesize a broad range of secondary metabolites (SMs), including non-protein amino acids which are toxic to herbivores. Understanding the SM diversity from an ecological context in a taxon-specific manner alongside determining insect responses to allelochemicals will advance our understanding of chemically mediated plant-insect interactions and associated ecological implications. *Mucuna pruriens* L. (DC.) varieties represent a unique taxonomic group in the legume family as they accrue large amounts of L-3, 4-dihydroxy phenylalanine (Levodopa, or L-DOPA) and its derivatives mainly in the seeds as well as in other plant parts in minor quantities. Accordingly, the plant displays remarkable immunity to attack by insects and small mammals indicating the key role of this non-protein amino acid (NPAA) in plant defense. However, a few animal species feed on it and appear to have evolved resistance to toxic chemicals. Surprisingly, little is known on these interactions and the role of chemodiversity in shaping them. The main aim of this research will be to study the L-DOPA mediated plant-herbivore interaction alongside examining the contributing genetic factors in *M. pruriens* across sub-species, ecological habitats, and ontogeny.

Qualification:

- First-class M.Sc. in Botany/Biotechnology/Life Sciences/Biosciences/Biochemistry or any other relevant branch of the Life Sciences. Previous experience in chemical ecology research and hands-on experience in handling insects/analytical instruments/plant secondary metabolites /bioinformatics and molecular biology tools will be an advantage.
- The project involves regular traveling in the North Eastern region of India for sample collection, and to the collaborating institutes at Bangalore and New Delhi for assisting their research works. NET/GATE qualified candidates will be given a preference.

Emolument:

- Project Associate (Candidates with CSIR-NET including lectureship, GATE, or equivalent only): Rs. 31,000+HRA (for two years) and 35,000+HRA (from third year onwards).
- Project Assistant (Candidates without NET or equivalent): Rs. 20,000+HRA (consolidated).

Duration of the appointment: 3 years starting from 1 April 2021. Candidates will be initially appointed for six months with a likely opportunity for renewal (following satisfactory performance) until the end of the project. All appointments are co-terminus with the the project.

Application Process: Candidates possessing the requisite qualification may send their application in a prescribed format (provided with this advertisement) along with the detailed curriculum vitae to **Prof. N Sathyanarayana, Principal Investigator & Coordinator (DBT Chemical Ecology Project), Dept of Botany, Sikkim University, 6th Mile, Tadong - 737102, Gangtok, Sikkim only by e-mail to: nsathyanarayana@cus.ac.in within 15 days from the date of publication of this advertisement.**

Note: Only shortlisted candidates will be called for the interview.

Prof. N Sathyanarayana
Department of Botany
Principal Investigator

Dr. Bhoj K. Acharya
Dept. of Zoology
Co-Investigator

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6th Mile, Samdur, Tadong-737102, Gangtok, Sikkim

APPLICATION FORM

Passport size
photograph

Application for the post of : _____

Name : _____

Date of birth: _____ Category (Gen/SC/ST/OBC): _____

Marital status: _____

Gender (Male/Female/third gender): _____ Nationality: _____

Mailing address: _____

Permanent address: _____

Mobile number: _____

E-mail: _____

Educational qualification (starting from matriculation)

Examination Passed	Board/University	Year of Passing	Subject taken	% of Marks	Div

Professional Experience (if any): _____

Research Experience (if any): _____

(Briefly describe the area of research, findings, innovations, patents, etc.)

Publications (mention author, title, journal name, year): (Attach separate sheet, if necessary)

Seminar, Workshop, Conference, Trainings attended: _____

Awards, Prizes: _____

Any other relevant information: _____

DECLARATION

I hereby declare that I have carefully read the instructions and particulars given in the advertisement and that the entries made in this application form are correct to the best of my knowledge. I note that the decision of the project appointment committee (PAC) is final in regard to selection. I agree that I shall abide by the decision of the PAC which will be final.

Place:

Date:

Signature of the applicant